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Group: Pet Shop Boys. Song: It's Alright. LP: Introspective

Music for the people and funds for the needy

By Khaldoun Tabaza
Special to The Star

THE amplifiers in Amman will be raised to the maximum once again when five of Jordan's top musical groups gather for a music festival that is expected to be the highest ever in the history of Jordan.

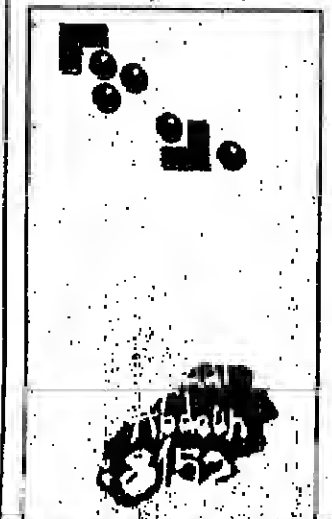
Music lovers will have the opportunity to see the live performances of Mirage, Hot Ice, Moody, Under Age, Orient Express, and possibly other groups in a two-hour open air music festival that will be organized by the National Music Conservatory (NCM).

"We are hoping that an audience of about 10,000 people will attend the festival, whose aim is to raise funds for needy students who want to study music at the conservatory," says Kifali Fakhor of the NCM. Mr Fakhor is still not sure about the site of the festival but says that two possible suggestions are the Orthodox Club stadium and Al-Husseini Sports City stadium.

The producer of the festival is the well-known Radio Jordan's ex-DJ Sami Kamal who greatly encouraged local music by introducing the Jordanian Hour in his shows in which he presented the music of local groups in addition to live interviews.

The revenue from the festival which is scheduled for 6 September will buy each of the participating groups music scholarships to be given to needy music students. "One student will get a Mirage Scholarship, another one will get a Moody Scholarship, and so on..." says Sami.

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Orient Express

Orient Express is a group that promises the audience a kind of music which is different from that of the other participating groups.

"We play Jazz-Rock and Classic Rock instrumentals," says Safwan Naser, the drummer of the group, "and we try to give our music a bit of an oriental touch," he adds.

In addition to Safwan, the group consists of Ernest Al-Sakka on the bass, Chris Simiriotis on the synthesiser, and Raed Mauna on the violin. "Another guitarist Kareem Talhoni, is now playing with the group and will probably become a permanent member soon," says Naser.

All the members of the group have a heavy metal background. Safwan and Ernest were the founding members of two groups since 1983. These groups are Warriors and Deja Vu. Chris' previous group was a heavy metal one called Black Rose.

"The idea of the festival is great, back in the early eighties, I attended a similar concert made by 'Swad', 'Ace', and Charles Mcropolis who were the big names at the time. I think that such festivals should be held annually," Safwan says.

Moody

Though his name is rarely heard on Radio Jordan, Moody seems to have the biggest number of songs among local artists. "I started five years ago in England and now I have 63 songs," says Moody. However only two songs, 'Changes' and 'mid-love' were recorded since Moody can't afford recording the rest.

Moody held some concerts when he was in England, but this is his first live appearance in Jordan.

Under Age

Though the least experienced among the participants, Under Age seem to be rising very rapidly in the local music arena these days. The group which consists of Ayman Al-Sakki, Ghassan Wahbeh and Nassim Majdalawi is practicing two hours a day and is now looking for a new drummer and a new bassist.

"At the moment, we are recording some new material," says Nassim. "One of our new songs is called 'Stone Kids' and there is another one about green peace called 'Show the world you care'."

"We are very proud to play with such big groups and for this noble cause, and we promise our crowd some really good stuff," Ayman says.



Mirage

One of the participants will be Mirage which is known on a large scale in the Arab world. "After this festival, we won't be appearing live for a whole year," says Wael Abu Nuwar of Mirage.

Concerning their latest output, Wael said that Mirage is now recording a new Arabic song called "Nesleinaki" (We forgot you), in addition to their song about the Intifada.

"The idea of the festival is excellent and very encouraging," Wael says. "We promise the crowd our best songs."

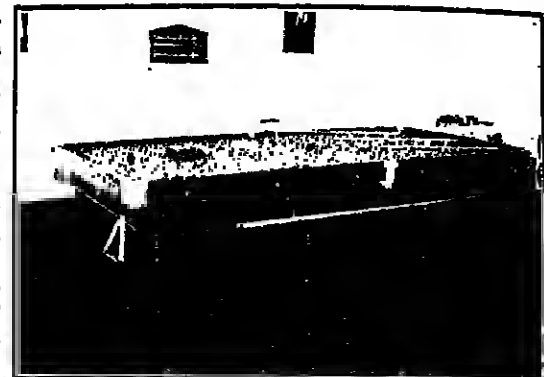
Hot Ice:

"Hopefully, we will be participating in the festival. We've got a lot of new songs both Arabic and English ones," says Mousa Faza of Hot Ice.

Lately, some changes concerning the group's members has taken place. Quosay Zareikat is now out of the group, the two basic members now are Mousa and his cousin Nader Faza and it is not sure whether the female vocalist, Rania Kamhawi, will stay with the band. Like Mirage usually do, the group will be getting backing musicians.

SNOOKER: A game for the talented

AMMAN — Snooker is a great sporting success story of modern times, but it is easily forgotten that it started as a folk sport long before it became a subject for dinner table conversation.



There were three million players in Britain alone even when the World Professional Championship had sunk so low in public interest that it was not held at all from 1950 to 1964.

By 1986 there were seven million players in Britain, with representatives of 25 countries competing at international level. The World Professional Championship, held each spring at the Crucible Theatre Sheffield, is one of the nation's great sporting occasions. It provides thrilling entertainment not only for the 980 or so spectators lucky enough to be in that ideal amphitheatre for the game, but for millions who watch on television.

The huge public appetite for snooker is anything but passive. People want to play, and hundreds of multi-table snooker centres have sprung up to cope with

this demand. Standards of play are rising all the time, particularly among the young and of both sexes. Some of the more precious talents seem almost to have been born with a cue in their hand, so naturally do they fall into sound stance and true cueing.

Most are not so lucky. They either start with or develop technical faults which condemn them to a lifetime of mediocrity, however hard they try. They may be knowledgeable about shot selection, because they see so much good snooker on television, but what will be the right shot for someone who possesses a reliable cue action may prove suicidal for someone who does not. If you cannot deliver the cue through straight, you will never get anywhere with the game.

INTERFACE BY SAMER KURDI

A bit about piracy

EVER LOADED up a piece of software to be greeted with "cracked by the Byte Slasher" or some similar message with another, equally ludicrous (sometimes rather imaginative) nickname?

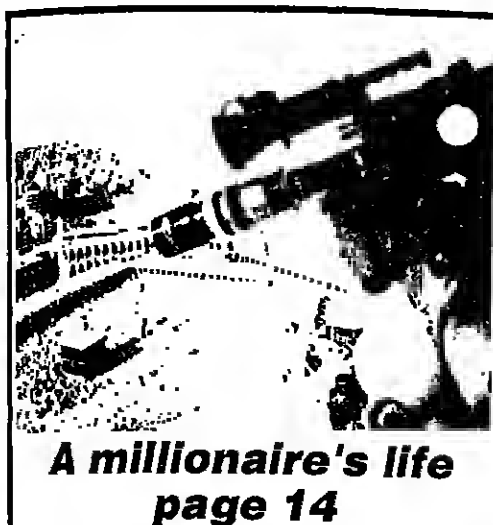
If you're a home computer user here in Jordan then you probably did, because our computer scene has the interesting characteristic of being totally free from copyright law or any other restrictions whatsoever on all kinds of software duplication.

Software heaven? Well, maybe... but I'm not sure if it's such a big plus after all... Not only does this mean the non-existence of a local software industry, thereby discouraging the development of programming and of talents in our users and computer hobbyists, but it has also led to the dominance of easily (and very cheaply) available games over all forms of other constructive computer activities amongst our youth.

Our copyright-free environment has its advantages, though, and definitely proves helpful where the dinar's devaluation is concerned, especially that we can have any software package under the sun without paying the price! But then again, what about the moral side? After all, the software is somebody's hard work. I think an introduction of a Jordanian copyright bill is something worth pondering by the government. Jordanian computer stores have no other option than to sell pirated software and consequently face big difficulties doing business after the first sale, which actually means more and more pirated software from abroad, as fast as possible.

Obtaining pirated software is easier than you would expect, and, once you know your way about it, it is actually easier, faster (we're talking pre-release here sometimes), and definitely much cheaper (free, if you know your business) than the original.

The software usually originates from Europe where a number of skillful teenage pirates who invent strange names for their 'groups' literally compete with each other in obtaining, cracking (i.e. removing the copy-protection) and spreading the latest software releases — and they spread, quickly and efficiently through modern and mail, usually including the addresses of some of the people who have passed them along the chain. One of the larger, well-known pirate groups I've written to were pleased and amazed to know that their 'stuff' has reached such a far away place. What amazes me, however, is how programmers and software companies make any profit at all.



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The Star

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Unloading the debt burden

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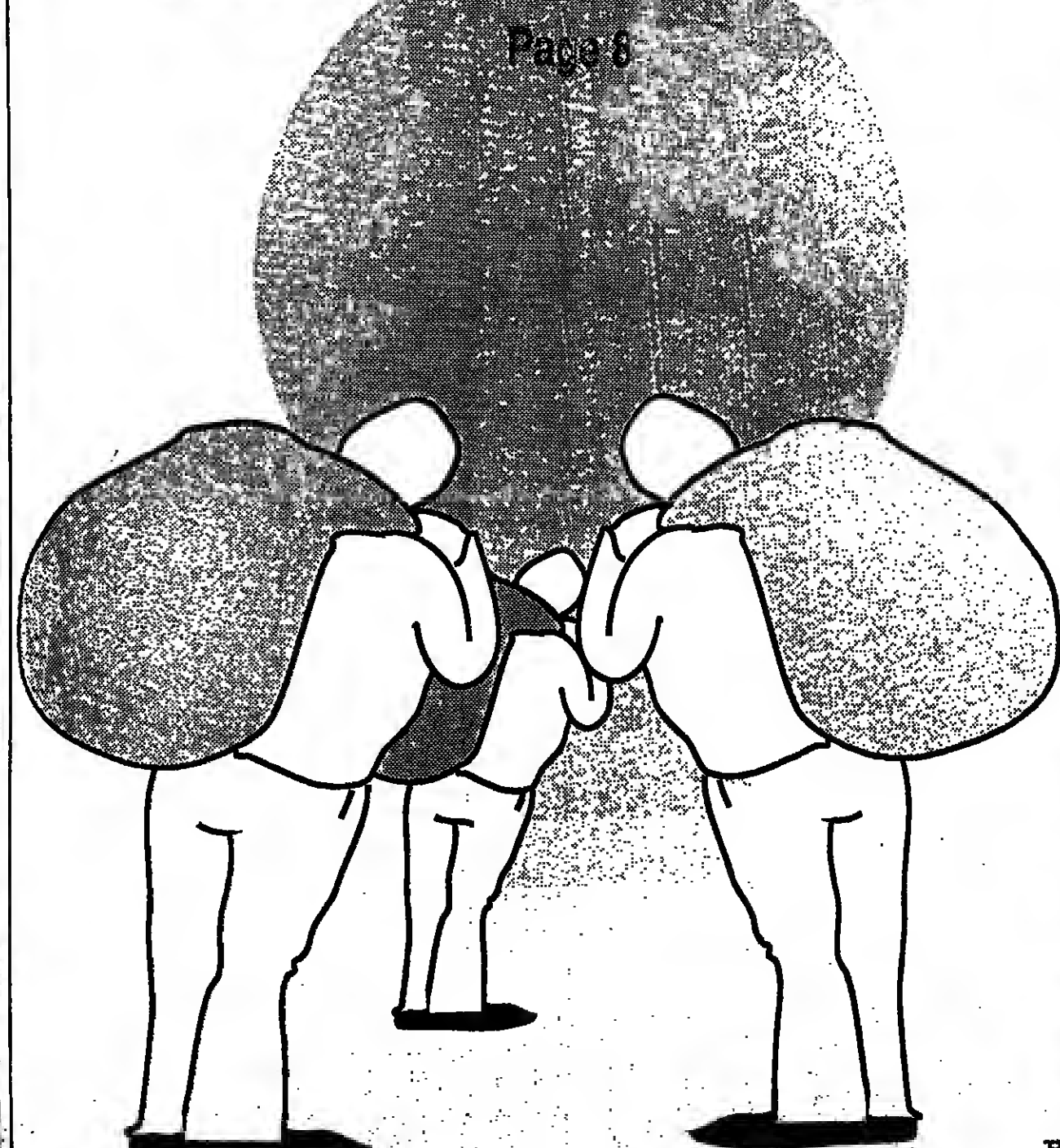


Illustration: Ahmad Humaid



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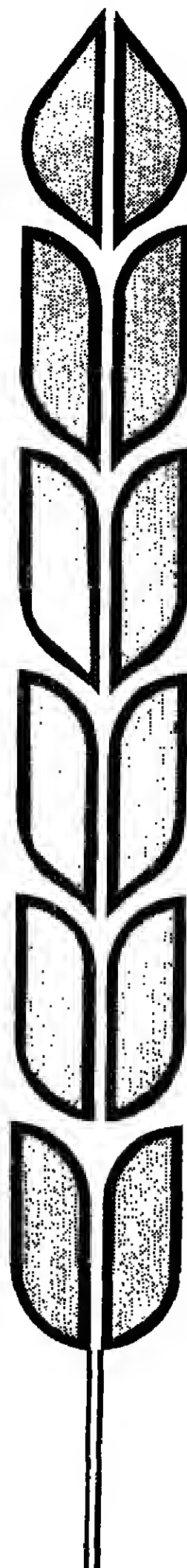
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Economic co-operation to dominate talks

Japanese prime minister to start first visit to Jordan

By a Star Staff Writer

JOINT ECONOMIC co-operation, and ways in which Japan could help Jordan to restore its economic stability will be among the topics of discussions between Jordanian officials and the visiting Japanese Prime Minister Mr Toshiki Kaifu, according to Tokyo's Ambassador to Jordan Mr Tadayuki Nonoyama. Mr Kaifu's visit to Amman on 21 August, the first by a Japanese premier to the kingdom, will be part of a five-country Middle East tour which will also take him to Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Egypt.

"We realise that Jordan is working hard to restore economic stability" and the ways in which Japan could help in this process will be the most important issue of discussion between Mr Kaifu and Jordanian officials,

Nonoyama told The Star in an interview.

Mr Nonoyama said that the aim of Mr Kaifu's visit to the Kingdom is to express Japan's support for Jordan's efforts to confront the political and economic challenges it is currently facing.

During his 26-hour stay in the Jordan, Mr Kaifu will hold talks with His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Mudar Badran on means of enhancing economic co-operation between the two countries as well as the peace process in the region.

Mr Nonoyama believes that the deferment of payment of interest by Jordan on its estimated \$347 million debt to Japan for next year will almost be discussed by the Japanese prime minister and his Jordanian hosts.



Mr Tadayuki Nonoyama

The two countries have already agreed to defer the payment of interest for the year 1990.

But while past Japanese assistance to Jordan was centred on the area of building infrastructure,

services such as telecommunication networks, roads and dams, future economic aid will focus on helping the country with its economic adjustment programme. In February 1990, the two governments signed an agreement under which Japan will grant Jordan a loan of JD 49 million to be used in the country's reform programme of its educational and training systems.

Since 1974 when Tokyo and Amman established full diplomatic relations, Jordan has received a total of \$ 500 million in concessional loans from the Japanese government. According to Mr Nonoyama, Jordan is the largest recipient of Japanese official development aid in terms of per capita.

Trade volume between the two countries has reached \$200 million with Jordan, in 1988, importing \$140 million worth of

Japanese goods, mostly machinery, cars and electronic products, and exporting \$34 million worth of mainly phosphate and potash to Japan.

Mr Nonoyama could not say if Mr Kaifu would offer Jordan any specific aid packages, but said that "some projects are being worked out" without elaborating on the nature of these projects.

He said that the regional political and economic instabilities are not very encouraging for Japanese investors. "But in Jordan there is stability, highly qualified work force and excellent infrastructural facilities, which make the country a good place for international transactions," he said.

As to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the peace process, Mr Nonoyama said that Mr Kaifu will

Continued on page 4

UJ's education quality threatened by over-admission, staff emigration

By a Star Staff Writer

THE QUALITY of education at the University of Jordan (UJ) will deteriorate and the oldest university in the country will not be able to maintain "the good academic level it has achieved over the years" if the number of students it has to admit this year surpasses its capacity, and if it continues to lose members of its teaching staff to other universities in the area, according to UJ President Dr Mahmoud Al Samra.

"I don't think the academic level of the university has deteriorated but I think it will be affected if the university has to accept a number of students that the teaching facilities cannot cope with and if the university doesn't receive the necessary funds to expand and develop," says Dr Samra.

Dr Samra wouldn't specify the number of students his university is capable of admitting to its various departments and faculties but said that the university had 17,500 in September 1989 and he expects the number to "be higher in September 1990."

A UJ professor who spoke to The Star on the condition of anonymity said that the university is already suffering from "a problem of overcrowding. Having 60-80 students in the class room is not conducive to a high-quality educational process," he said.

Dr Samra said that even though the University of Jordan suggests the number of students that should be accepted, it is up to the Higher Council for Education (HCE) to determine the actual number of students who will be admitted to Jordan's four public universities.

The HCE has already announced that 10065 students will join Jordan's universities at the beginning of the academic year 1990-1991. The UJ will have to accept 3900 students, and "this slight increase over last year's number of students accepted will negatively affect the quality of the process of education," according to the UJ professor who didn't want to be named.



Dr Mahmoud Al Samra

Dr Samra believes that Jordan is not capable of providing university education in its governmental universities to all those wishing to pursue their higher education. He says that private universities can provide a suitable alternative, especially that the HCE has demanded that these universities comply with certain standards, which are tougher than those government universities have to maintain.

As to the emigration of the university professors to other universities in the region, Dr Samra says that this process has not so far posed a major problem in the university but there is "fear that it will in the coming one or two years."

According to Dr Samra, only 70 out of UJ's 750 professors have applied for sabbatical leave for next year and that is well below the 20 per cent that the university regulations allow.

Dr Samra says that the university basically encourages its teaching staff members to work for other institutions because such experiences provide them with the opportunity to meet with other specialists, follow up with new discoveries in their fields, and "improve their economic situations."

Dr Samra believes that the salaries that the teaching staff receive "are not enough" in light of the responsibilities they shoulder, the rising cost of living and the amount of money that they could be earning working elsewhere.

Continued on page 4

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'The charter should not be put to a vote—Ensour

Editor's note: Lower House Deputy Dr Abdullah Ensour, a former minister of planning, is now the head of the 22-member National Bloc. He is also a member of a special House committee investigating cases of government corruption. Following are excerpts of an interview he gave to The Star this week.

The Star: The Lower House of Parliament has spent a considerable time discussing cases of administrative and financial corruption in the country. A number of cases were referred to the General Attorney but some of them were sent back to the House and no rulings have been handed down in any of the cases? How do you account for that and when will any decision on these issues be taken?

Dr Abdullah Ensour: The corruption cases are divided into different categories. The House has gone a long way in studying some of them, and these (nine cases in total) were referred to the General Attorney, who sent back three of them because they were out of his jurisdiction and this means that the House will receive a report from an elected seven-member committee summarising these cases before the House votes on them ahead of referring them to a special court for ministers as was specified by the Constitution. This step will be taken soon. The rest of the cases are still being investigated by the General Attorney.

Q: What is the nature of the cases involving the four former ministers?

A: I cannot talk about the content of these cases. This is the speciality of the court?

Q: What about the procedures of developing these cases? This will probably be the first time in the whole region in which ministers are put to trial. Taking into consideration the social and political structure of the society, do you

think that the ministers will actually be tried?

A: The question that should be answered is: Has there been any corruption in the past? This was the common demand of all candidates (for the Parliamentary elections), and voters agreed that the matter should be investigated. Now we are talking from a position of responsibility. The right authority to give the final word on whether there has been corruption or not is with the courts. We are beyond the stage of pointing to the existence of corruption, the need to fight it, and to restore public confidence in the executive institution because this will eventually cut the way for future illegal practices.

As an investigation commissions we do not pass judgement; we raise questions.

Q: During your election campaign you said that you had documents that could prove the existence of corruption and could lead to the indictment of certain persons. Did you use these documents and what are the cases that your documents pointed to?

A: Definitely (the documents were used). What I had (of documents) is with the General Attorney or else how were these cases built, and who provided the courts with any documents at all?

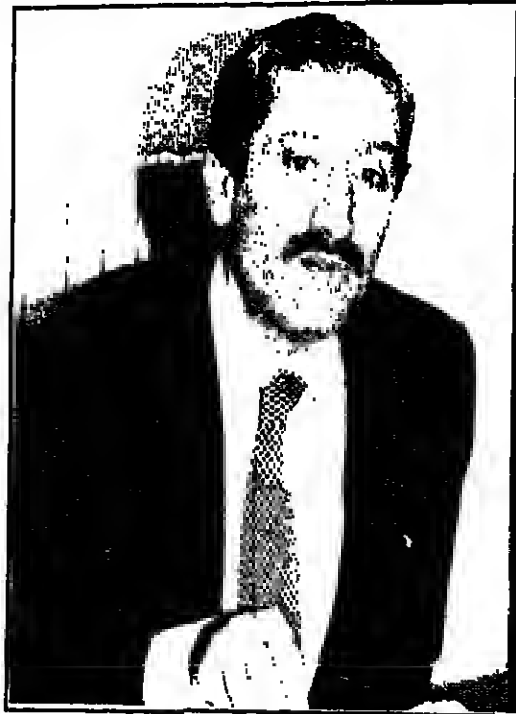
Q: Many people say that the way in which the debate over corruption was handled did the country more harm than good, especially that nothing solid has resulted from it so far. What is your answer to that?

A: First of all, it is not true that nothing has resulted from the investigation. The corruption cases are being investigated either by the House, or by the General Attorney or are with the courts. In nature, these cases require a long time.

Q: What about the first part of the question?

A: No, the corrupt are those who hurt the country. Those who investigate and chase corruption do not cause the country any

"So it is clear that if the charter is voted on by the people, it will be superior to the Constitution. And this is something we don't want," MP Dr Abdullah Ensour



harm.

We are a country that is cleansing itself, a country that is trying to get rid of the dirt that had tarnished it. So if we were right about the corruption cases, then we are doing the right thing. And if we were wrong in assuming so, then this is a mistake in our judgement.

Also, we are not the only country that is doing that. Such things happen in the oldest of democracies. It happened in Italy, France, Britain, and even in the United States, at the level of vice-presidents.

So, why is it that in the case of Jordan, it is said that the country is hurting its reputation by trying to cleanse itself?

Q: You have recently announced the formation of the 22-member National Bloc, what are the common grounds among the members of this grouping?

A: Members of the bloc are in agreement on a number of principles, foremost among which is that the bloc represents the middle stream in the House.

We are for a modern, democratic state which is based on the Constitution. We represent the common denominator for the

people who are not members of any political parties.

The National Bloc is then a group that believes in the constitution, and in the form of the regime on a lasting and not on a temporary basis.

We are with the building of a modern, moderate state based on democracy and joint ruling on the basis of evolution and not revolution. We are evolutionaries and not revolutionaries.

Q: You, as a National Bloc, charged in a recent press conference that the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran did not deliver all that it had promised. Can you elaborate on that?

A: When the government first presented its policy statement, we accepted and valued this statement and suggested some amendments to it.

In general, the statement responded to our aspirations. And so we gave the cabinet our confidence, pointing out to the prime minister that some changes in the composition of the cabinet have to be made.

Now that two House sessions have passed, we announced that there has been some success in certain areas, especially in the economic, financial, and monetary fields. However no such success has been achieved as far as the stability of (consumer) prices and unemployment.

At this particular time we wanted to stop and review the performance of the government and to review the ability of the ministerial team especially after the last reshuffle.

We gave a yellow light that we are not comfortable enough and that there is room for more achievements.

If we find any progress, then we are with it (the government) and if we find negative elements building, we will announce that as strongly as possible. However, we will always be aware that the government (in its intentions) is very serious in trying to solve the problems from which we are suffering.

Q: You said that the government was not successful in tackling the unemployment problem. But in light of the economic conditions in general, and knowing that unemployment is a consequence of these conditions, do you think that

there is any thing more the government can do?

A: In the recent statement of the National Bloc we didn't say one sentence about the effects of unemployment because they are common sense. We referred to different applicable ways in which unemployment can be dealt with.

There can be no solution to the problem of unemployment without more investment and more projects.

Q: But the question that remains is how can we attract new investments?

A: Attracting the huge capital, within and around us, cannot be done through preaching and appealing to patriotism.

It (attracting new investments) can be done through creating an environment for investment.

This means the country should be stable and this is up to the citizens to secure; it means that there should be liberal and open laws that can attract capital. There should also be ready, studied, and analysed packages of projects, that should be presented to investors.

We should also reduce tax burdens and not aim at making fast profit from taxes, because huge taxes scares the investor.

In terms of utilising local savings, there are about JD 3 billion deposited in the banks now waiting for new projects and waiting for an atmosphere of confidence to prevail.

Q: Where do you, as a bloc, stand on the issue of the national charter, now that work on it is nearing completion, and what is your position on having it put for direct voting from the people?

A: The following is my personal opinion. As a bloc we have not yet defined our position on the charter and we will do that once it (the charter) is finished.

What everybody fears is to draft the charter in a way that would overshadow the Constitution, which is the common denominator which we all agree to accept and go by.

So if the charter does not have anything to raise fears for the (status of the) Constitution then it will be accepted by all the people.

I am against putting the charter to public voting even if that was constitutional, for numerous reasons. The most important one is that carrying a referendum means going directly to the people while the Constitution itself is usually amended by the representatives of the people. So it is clear that if the charter is voted on by the people, it will be superior to the Constitution. And this is something we don't want.

Also, we don't want the charter to have any implications on the region if it does not receive a majority vote.

Our regime and what comes from it are above voting. The head of our regime, our King, is above voting. Nothing that King Hussein says should be put to voting.

So, we don't want people to think that they are voting on the opinions and ideas of the King while they are actually voting on the ideas of a commission. We don't want such a misunderstanding to happen.

2 AUGUST 1990

Stone lady receives a face-lift: Italians restore Madaba Mosaic

By Charlotte Hale
Star Staff Writer

BEFORE JORDAN'S water crisis hit the headlines, a delicate "lady" in Madaba was begging for water rationing. But she couldn't speak because her intricate stone complexion was drowning in more than 10 centimetres of water covering the floor of the Apostles Church where she lays as a part of colourful mosaic.

Luckily, two Italian experts in mosaic restoration have come to Madaba at the invitation of the Department of Antiquities to give the woman a face-lift. Sergio Pezzi and Antonino Vaccaluzzo of the Directorate of Ravenna of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Properties have spent the last two weeks cleaning the tiny tesserae that now lie in lopsided lumps.

"We decided there was an urgent need to invite some experts to Jordan in an effort to restore the mosaic because the floor is not on an even level," explains Dr Ghazi Bisheh, director-general of the Department of Antiquities. "Parts of the mosaic have shrunk and been swallowed up because of seepage from rain water through the roof of the church."

The mosaic is currently covered by a shed built in 1971 by the Department of Antiquities. But Dr Bisheh notes that the asbestos slabs and gravel used in the construction of the roof are not 100 per cent waterproof. He also says that the caretakers' habit of spraying the fragile tesserae with water to create a sparkling

appearance contributed to the damage. The guards have since been told to clean the mosaic only with a damp cloth to prevent further destruction.

After cleaning the mosaic with water and chemical agents which are poured onto the tesserae and then immediately dried off, Pezzi and Vaccaluzzo will begin lifting small areas of the mosaic out of the uneven floor. They will then make a new flat surface out of a reversible resin containing river sands on which to replace the restored art work which contains inscriptions from 585 AD.

"We don't use a resin with sea sands because the salt would corrode the tesserae. This resin won't affect the small pieces," Pezzi explains through a translator. "We aren't using cement either. We wanted a reversible

material to allow for the use of any of new restoration techniques that might be discovered in the future."

Pezzi also stresses the urgent need to build a new roof so that the mosaic is not destroyed again. However, Dr Bisheh says that the Department of Antiquities currently does not have the financial resources for a new construction. "Overall, the roof is in fairly good condition, but we will replace some of the asbestos slabs that contributed to the damage," he adds.

The restoration will take two months and is being financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at an approximate cost of \$50,000. This grant to the Jordanian government covers the expense of the restorers' air transportation and the cost of the 1500



An Italian restorer cleans part of the Apostles Church mosaic



The stone lady's smooth and uncorroded complexion (as shown above) will once again impress Apostles Church visitors once the mosaic restoration is complete.

kilogrammes of materials they are using in the project, says Giovanni Benenati, head of the Italian Embassy's Cultural Department.

"Jordan is full of mosaics, in Madaba, in Jerash; everywhere there are mosaics," Benenati emphasises. Even the Apostles Church, which was rediscovered in 1902 by Italian priest Don Giuseppe Manfredi and first excavated by the German Evangelical Institute in 1967, contains five other mosaic floors dating back to the Byzantine and Umayyad periods.

binad with Jordan's lack of restorers spurred the Italians and Jordanians to extend the project to include the establishment of a mosaic school in Madaba next to the church of the Prophet Elias.

Benenati notes that the project is currently under study, but hopes the school will be open next year, pending approval by the Jordanian government which will provide technical assistance.

The school's comprehensive two-year programme will enable

15-20 young Jordanian students to learn the proper techniques for restoring the country's many mosaics and prepare them to continue their studies at the university level.

The school will be open to students in their final years of secondary school, with the course-work integrated into the regular curriculum under the framework of the Ministry of Education. Classes will include art history, the history of mosaics, history and theory of restoration, chemistry, mineralogy, biology, and legislation, and practical training in the laboratories and at archaeological sights.

The project also includes a coffee shop and shops that will sell local mosaic art and other handicrafts and will hopefully help attract more tourists to Madaba, explains Benenati.

The Ministry of Tourism is still investigating financial resources to fund the establishment of the school. "But we should know where some of the money will come from in the next few days," says Minister of Tourism Director-General Mr. Nasri Attallah.

Dutch artist combines the classical with graphic design

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to The Star

HORSES HAVE been a life-long passion for Hans Buys, better known as Dutch artist Henri Busy. He rode horses and participated in equestrian competitions in his early years and he now owns three horses and a stable for training champions in horse-riding, jumping and dressage. The animals have even become the major subjects of his paintings, which were recently displayed at the Philadelphia International Hotel in Amman.

Busy started his career as a graphic designer in 1975, but as he approached middle age, he realised that soon he would have to stop and give way to the competitive new generation. So, he turned to painting horses. Nevertheless, his graphic design background has influenced his work as an artist.

Busy's lines are very precise and detailed down to each particular muscle and bone in a horse anatomy. This technique makes the work appear rigid and stylised, but the artist explains that "when I am commissioned to paint a horse, my client expects to see exactly what he asked for with every minute detail. Abstracted works would not be the solution. In this type of

work I have to be very realistic and paint horses in full length profiles."

Because this style of painting involves such precision, Busy must see the horse he is commissioned to paint. He then makes a video film of the horse to capture the animal's character through its positions and movements. In this manner, Busy gets a feel for the subject he will paint.

It takes the artist up to two months to finish one portrait since he works mostly in oil, which takes a long time to dry. So, he usually paints six or seven horse-portraits simultaneously while waiting for one to dry.

Busy's graphic background is also evident through his latest technique of painting the horse's name on the portrait in bold capital letters. The setting is stark, usually involving white and another colour depending on the interior decoration of the room.

In his Amman show, the artist displayed a portrait in this style boldly announcing the horse's name, "Arabian Stud." The background was plain with just a sky blue colour extended onto the frame.

Other backgrounds reflected a horse's natural setting, either in the client's stable or outside in the field. When a horse is de-



Henri Busy before one of his paintings

tailed in terms of colour the background is rendered hazy. However, when a horse is plain brown then the setting is given a distinct shape.

"I want to show that with this sort of painting you can do anything," says Busy. A horse remains a horse and it can be put on any background.

This point was made clear in his exhibited works of various settings. One horse was in a stable, another near a lake and one stood in front of a desert

castle wall. Busy has great admiration for the Arabian horse, a feeling reflected in his art. "Two Arabians can fit into one heavy Dutch horse, and I once heard that the former can even drink from a tea-cup," says Busy jokingly.

This feeling of heaviness for Dutch horses is expressed through thick classical frames. A painting of a purebred Arabian, however, is displayed in a frame that is smaller and lighter in colour, and the canvas is less

cramped. Prices for these works range from \$2000 to \$3000. "The aim of my first solo show in Amman was to show members of the public my capabilities. Even though I did not sell anything, I got a lot of compliments and a letter from the minister of tourism as well as an accompanying medal," says Busy.

However, Henri Busy honestly admits that the paintings are primarily for orders, not exhibition. For him art is a business.

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Japanese premier visits Jordan

continued from page 3

not have any specific proposals on the issue and will mainly seek to find ways in "which Japan could contribute to peace and stability in the Middle East."

Mr Nonoyama said that Japan has little experience in the region but that "there are certain expectations for it to play a more active role in the peace process." He said Prime Minister Kaifu's meeting with King Hussein will give him the opportunity to better understand the Middle East complicated issues "and later try to formulate our contribution (to the peace process)."

The Japanese diplomat said that Japan's position on the Middle East peace process is almost "identical" with that of Jordan and that Tokyo believes peace in the region should be reached through the convening of an international peace conference with the participation of all parties to the conflict including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

He said Japan maintains that peace in the Middle East should be based on Security Council's resolutions 242 and 338 and should guarantee the withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces from areas occupied since 1967, the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and an independent state and the right of Israel to exist.

However, Mr Nonoyama said that any future role for Japan in the region's peace process will not be similar to that of the United States because "Japan does not have any strong political leverage on Israel."

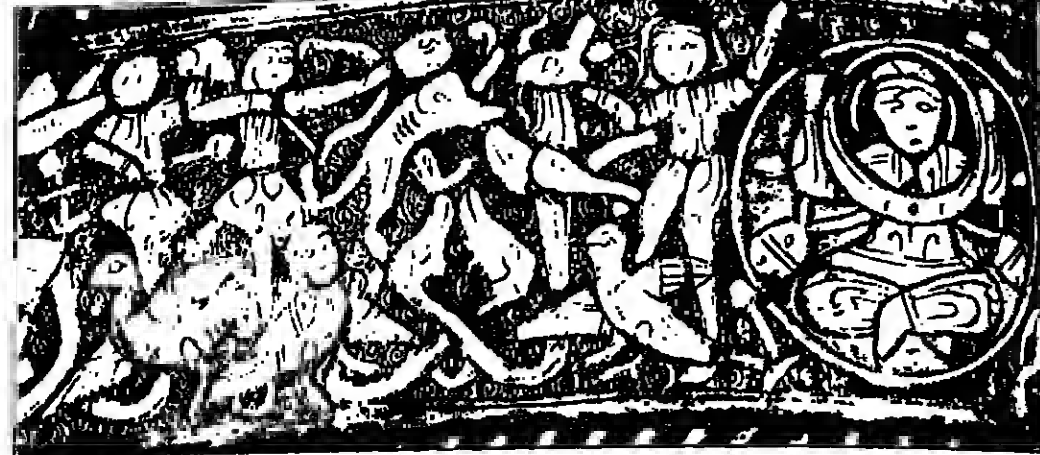
Dr Samra

continued from page 3

And since the UJ cannot raise the salaries of its teaching staff members in the time being due to the general hard economic conditions in the country, there is fear that many professors will accept the lucrative offers that they are receiving from abroad, mainly Gulf countries, and which usually offer them four times the salary they receive in Jordan.

"The fear is for the future," says Dr Samra, "as the attractive work conditions, and the wide work opportunities for staff members are very tempting to many professors," he says.

"There is nothing we can do to stop anybody from resigning," says Dr Samra. However, the university will take precautions against any shortages in the numbers of the teaching staff, which seem to be very likely, by sending "a number of excellent post-graduates on scholarships to specialise in areas where we feel shortages are most likely to occur," says Dr Samra.



Left: A Mughal scribe from around 1625
Above: Anthropomorphic and Zoomorphic letters from a canteen in metal, mid 13th century Syria.

The art of calligraphy is an integral part of Islamic culture — its various forms and styles indicative of the societies in which it has been produced.

Calligraphy Riding the curves of Islamic culture

By Heather Williams
Special to The Star

WHILE THE importance of writing for all civilisations is universally recognised, there is no doubting the significance that calligraphy holds in Islamic culture. The devotion and skill with which the calligraphers learnt and practiced their art is well known, and can be seen in the development over the centuries of different styles, found in manuscripts, ceramics, mosques and other buildings.

Throughout the Islamic world, calligraphy is experiencing a revival, while the developing western interest in calligraphic art reflects or is an instigator of wider interest in the art and culture of Islam. "Calligraphy and Islamic Culture" by Professor Annemarie Schimmel is a widely acclaimed book which has now been made available to a larger

readership with this edition by I B Tauris.

"Writing," says Schimmel, "is Muslims' most precious heirloom."

Traditionally the beauty of the script was preserved by painstaking efforts on the part of the pupil taking instruction from his master. This involved the repetition of a single letter, often for days, until perfection of form was achieved. Because writing was, and still is, used to record the word of God, in some religious schools calligraphy is regarded as a sacred art, and demands were therefore placed on the pupil.

The pupil was required to be of a "sweet character and of an unassuming disposition" and "not be unclear for a single hour." The relationship between master and pupil was similar to that of a spiritual guide, of Sufi pir, and his disciple. In fact,

Schimmel points out, almost every famous calligrapher in Ottoman Turkey was connected with a Sufi order.

Writing was, of course, primarily used for preserving the Holy Quran, forming, as it does, an essential part of Muslim culture. However, a variety of scripts developed to fulfil the different purposes for which they were required.

The development of well-measured script was mainly due to Ibn Muqla, a native of Shiraz in Iran, who measured the letters in the cursive script by use of rhomboid dots. The letters were proportioned by relating their size to the alif (the first letter of the alphabet) using circles and semicircles, a method which is used by calligraphers today.

One of Ibn Muqla's students, Ibn Al Bawwab, founded a school in Baghdad where one of the masters of his style was a woman, Shuhda Al-Katiba, whose 'chain of transmission' goes to Yaqut Al-Mustasimi, who died in 1298 and whom Schimmel regards as the last of the great medieval calligraphers.

Yaqut's innovative trimming of the pen, by which the thin and thick strokes of letters were exaggerated, lent obvious elegance to the script. However, among his pupils, six were responsible for the development of the six styles of nashk, muhaqqaq, thuluth, ta'iq, rihani and rika'at.

Each style had a small, khatti, and a large, jali, variant. Thuluth was mainly used in sura headings of the Quran, and was considered the ideal style for epigraphy, lending itself well to inscriptions on stone.

Nashk, which is distinguished by a triangular type letter, became the copyists' script, while its more artistic forms developed according to local taste. In Iran, for example, it is rounded and very upright, while in Turkey, it developed into fine graceful letters; gharib, or the 'dust script' also developed from nashk, originally designed for pigeon post, and written with a minute pen.

In India, the highly decorative style of Bihari script developed mainly during the 15th century, which calligraphers wrote using colourful inks, producing attractive manuscripts. Writing in Central Asia reflected Mongolian and Chinese influences.

The Muslims' love of the written word was endemic throughout societies, as artisans covered every conceivable object with

writing, either religious verses or rhyming sentences. Attractive designs encompassing words in praise of God were obviously popular.

Objects from ceramics, goblets, flasks, clothes, headgear, golden and silver vessels to pillows were artistically covered with poetic verses or religious sayings. Slave girls had verses written in henna on their cheeks and foreheads, while soldiers wore coats inscribed, often with whole Quans, to protect them in battle.

Mihrabs in wood and marble were inscribed with all styles of scripts, while in India or Spain, wood was inlaid with mother of pearl or ivory inscriptions. In the early Middle Ages, kufic script could be found on the coronation gown of the German emperor, reflecting obvious admiration in Europe for Eastern calligraphy.

However, unusual and unorthodox styles developed, such as zoomorphic calligraphy, which was, according to Dr Schimmel, a "playful invention." It is probable, she says, that this technique grew out of the headings on princely documents, which were apparently common in India. The Herati master Majnun invented a script where the letters looked like human and animal figures.

The mystical element of calligraphy unveiled a fascinating aspect of the script, whereby letters were attributed with numerical values. Thinkers and mystics alike attributed a hidden meaning to letters and words, which could contain messages unrecognised by the uninitiated. Even single letters had a meaning, and were used to predict historical events.

The art of the poets was also intertwined with that of calligraphic skills. Pages of poetry and secular prose were as skillfully written as religious manuscripts. Poets composed verses extolling the virtues of the pen, the ink, and the shapes of the letters, as well as the writers themselves. The style of nasta'liq, the "bride of the Islamic styles of writing," was, in the view of Schimmel, the ideal vehicle for poetical texts, which could be seen in the way fine poetry was beautifully written on pages embellished with decorative borders.

Nor was calligraphy an accomplishment only of men. Unlike in the West, where writing over the centuries was a male domain,

and where women either assumed a man's name or ascribed their work anonymously, for fear of being discovered, Muslim women were not only free to develop their calligraphic skills, but were obviously encouraged to do so.

One reason for the considerable number of women proficient in this art, Schimmel maintains, is that the skills of calligraphy were inherited through the family lineage, which could be either through men, or women. Princesses were as good at the craft as their emperor fathers, amongst whom Shah Ismail's daughter, and Aurangzeb's daughter, were recognised as outstanding.

One female pupil of the master Mehmet Rasim Efendi received her ijaza (permission to sign her work) and produced a book of calligraphy at the age of 12. Calligraphic works executed by Turkish women during the 18th and 19th centuries adorn mosques and tekkes in Istanbul.

Although calligraphy is the art of the written word, it didn't matter whether an inscription was understood or not. The script was admired as much by the illiterate villager as by the educated scholar. Turkish master Hafiz Osman, who had forgotten to bring money on a boat journey, paid the illiterate ferryman with an artistically written waw.

Schimmel further amplifies this point with examples, and lists the whole alphabet for the uninitiated reader. Anecdotes about the history of the written word and the calligraphers' lives serve to enliven the subject.

What is particularly interesting is that Schimmel does not regard calligraphy as an isolated art form, unrelated to the society from which it derives. For, as the title of the book implies, calligraphy is interwoven with Islamic culture, and there is more to be gained in regarding it as such.

Calligraphy and Islamic Culture: By Annemarie Schimmel. IB Tauris & Co. 264pp.

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2 AUGUST 1990

By Mary Doyle
Special to The Star

A fair deal for the Third World's cloth

As it moves towards greater integration, Europe is being asked to open up its markets to textiles and clothing from the developing world. The chief target for the attack is the MFA, the Multi-Fibre Arrangement whose abolition is being urged by European development agencies.

ing the name of the MFA without actually changing the substance of the existing arrangement, he warned.

The demand for MFA reform centres on giving the poor countries a fairer deal, which does not mean free trade. Rather it calls for easier import with special assistance programmes for the exporters. With unrestricted trade, the coalition warns, the developing countries can be affected about as badly as they are by current curbs.

The high-powered coalition includes the Dutch Association for a New International Development Policy, the Belgian National Committee for Development Co-operation and the World Development Movement in Britain.

The MFA has restricted the imports of textiles and clothing from developing countries for 15 years, the latest (fourth) arrangement being seen by critics as

"protectionist" and "discriminatory." Most of the countries affected by it are from the developing world or Eastern Europe. While measures are under way to offer improved terms to the newly re-established democracies in Eastern Europe, anxieties persist about the fate of the arrangements with the developing world.

In the 1960s and 1970s western textile and clothing industries struggled against strong competition within the industrialised world and the threat of continual growth of cheap imports from developing countries. This led the industrialised countries to demand protection of their markets. The result was the Short-Term Arrangement (STA), enforced in 1961, the subsequent Long-Term Arrangement (LTA) and, from 1974 onwards, the unpopular Multi-Fibre Arrange-

ment. Now the whole range of trade arrangements for textiles and clothing is under discussion within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The essence of these Arrangements lies in their legalised departures to the GATT rules, through which countries may restrict their imports by tariffs or quotas if they see these imports causing disruption on the national market.

Although this safeguard is not meant to be used to block imports, industrialised countries have been known to use higher than normal tariffs to restrict their imports.

As a result, in 1985, only 18 per cent of the clothing and five per cent of the textiles consumed in the EC came from developing countries while the community was the largest exporter of tex-

iles. The problems created by this state of affairs now are so complex that a mere abolition of the MFA will not bring immediate relief to the developing countries. Instead, MFA reforms will have to be accompanied by intensive training and technological input in the poor countries.

The abolition of the MFA will not hinder industrialised countries, since despite an expected increase in developing-country exports, the largest share of the market will continue to be served by the western industry.

World Bank experts estimate that the developing countries stand to gain about \$3 billion a year if the MFA is abolished. Further gains are expected in higher demand for goods as prices decrease as a result of the abolition of the MFA.

The European Community's answer is that 1992 will have positive spinoffs for the developing countries, with higher economic growth and increased imports. The developing countries, however, fear that they may face competition for favourable treatment from the newly emergent Eastern Europe. There is also concern that production in the southern states, particularly Spain and Portugal, will emerge as an alternative to imports from developing countries.

AIDS — Time for global action

By Maryam Schiller
Special to The Star

THE SOCIAL jibes against particular groups sound odious and the confidence exuded by the majority, secure in its sexual preferences, seems false. As widely predicted, AIDS is hitting across the board at groups not considered at risk before.

No longer is the disease the major concern of groups considered to be in the 'high risk' categories. Rather it is spreading fast amongst heterosexuals, particularly in the industrialised countries. Few can now maintain with any confidence that only those in the high-risk social groups, or with Third World connections, racial or acquired, will die of it.

HIV, the human immunodeficiency virus, is universal and, according to World Health Organisation (WHO) experts, the sooner that is recognised the safer it will be for all of us on earth.

According to a report published in June by the WHO Office of Information, about 60 per cent of all global HIV infections that occurred after 1990 have resulted

from heterosexual contact. By the year 2000, it is predicted that this figure will rise to a staggering 75 to 80 per cent, the effects of which could have devastating consequences.

At present, the level of HIV infection is highest in sub-Saharan Africa, where WHO estimates at least three to four million persons are infected with HIV, almost half the global total. This represents about 1.5 to 2 million women, which is nearly 80 per cent of the global total of women infected, and about 40 per cent of the global total of infected men.

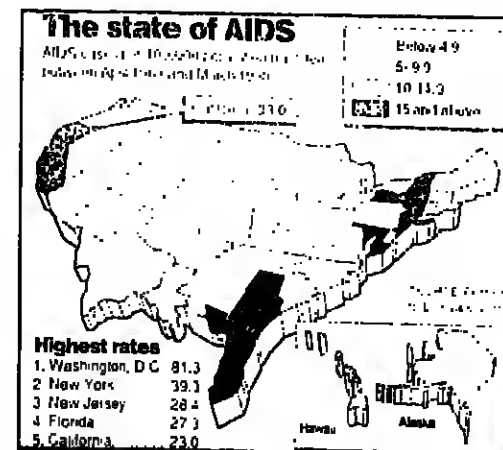
WHO experts estimate that one out of every 50 men and women in sub-Saharan Africa is already infected with HIV. The implications of this are far reaching. To start with, this scale of infection places impossible high demands on medical resources, and pressure on the social infrastructure of the countries concerned. As if this were not bad enough, the forecasts about the incidence of HIV infection are increasing as worse. As of 1990, about 200,000 HIV infected infants have been born in sub-Saharan Africa, with

an additional million estimated over the next decade.

However, WHO experts point out that it is not only the Third World which is at risk. Outside sub-Saharan Africa, the highest incidence of HIV infection among men is in North America, which WHO estimates is as high as one in 75. In South America, this figure is one in 125, and in Western Europe, one in 200.

AIDS is also spreading among women worldwide. WHO experts estimate that one out of 500 women is infected in South America, one in 700 women in North America, and one in 1,400 women in Western Europe. The figures for Eastern Europe, Asia and the Pacific region, are lower, with about 50,000 women, or one in 20,000, infected with HIV.

Around half of the people who have already contracted the HIV virus are likely to develop AIDS within 10 years of infection. It is expected that the vast majority will develop the disease eventually, unless more effective treatment is discovered. While research is advancing rapidly, and more than 50 different antiviral



agents are being tested in laboratories worldwide, treatment generally is still problematic.

Research into vaccines, however, seems more promising. Recent experiments suggest protective immunity from HIV may possibly be induced with some types of experimental vaccines. However, an effective and widely available vaccine against HIV infection and AIDS is still being sought.

The fight against HIV and AIDS is a global one. Before one considers whether it is being won, one should examine whether the battle is being waged at all.

The four priority areas for action urged by the WHO still need serious attention. Aside from collaboration among national AIDS control programmes, as well as research and development, the fight has to centre on the unlikely area of complacency and denial. Efforts also have to be made, in the view of WHO experts, towards enforcing human rights of victims or suspected AIDS sufferers.

The Geneva-based WHO has set out three main objectives for what it calls a Global AIDS Strategy. These are 1. to prevent HIV infection; and 2. to reduce the personal and social impact of HIV infection; and 3. to unify national and international health efforts.

But implementing the strategy will not be easy. The cash cost of the programme during 1990 alone is expected to be in the region of \$90.7 million. Will it bring results? No one seems quite certain.

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Getting rid of the debt burden: A 3-part policy

By Pam Dougherty
Special to The Star



Basel Jaraneh

THE MINISTRY of Finance is moving to the offensive on Jordan's foreign debt with plans for a three-pronged debt management policy designed to support Jordan's development needs and revitalize the economy.

At a press meeting last week Minister of Finance Basel Jaraneh said the policy which is to be recommended to the government would be based on 1. The encouragement of new investment through debt/equity swaps, 2. Idle capacity in the industrial sector to be used as the basis for export/leak swaps, 3. Debt buy back.

At \$1.3 billion Jordan's commercial debt is a relatively small

proportion of the overall \$8 billion total but the high interest rate on commercial debt, compared with that on government debt, makes any reduction an attractive proposition. The first moves in the policy

have in fact been made with recent sales of around 200,000 tons of cement by the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) which should enable the company to cope with its foreign debt of around \$89 million due between 1990 and 1993.

The technique of debt/equity swaps under which foreign exchange coming into the country for investment purposes is used to settle foreign debt is considered an effective way of reversing the trend of capital flight. It should be successful in Jordan provided that attractive local investment opportunities are available as Jordanian nationals are known to have substantial sums of money deposited abroad.

Some Jordanian banks are al-

ready working on possible debt/equity arrangements and should be able to go ahead quickly once the government gives the green light.

Progress on the third element of the programme, debt buy back, now hinges on talks underway with the London Club to settle the terms under which Jordan could begin to buy back its own debt at a discounted rate. According to Minister Jaraneh some of the debt is now available for 50-70 per cent of its face value depending on the currency of the loan.

Jaraneh says his aim is to buy selectively to maximise the benefits. A buy back of sterling debt, for example, brings a considerable saving on the current punishing 15-16 per cent interest rate. Jaraneh says the government is hoping to use soft loans from the World Bank to finance the process.

Not all observers are confident that the debt management strategy will be effective or that Jordan will in fact be able to cope with its interest repayment, put at \$500 million annually by Jaraneh, for more than a few years.

According to economist and former World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff member Patrick Clawson, who was in Amman recently, "No other country which has a high debt to GDP ratio has been able to sustain regular interest payments. Jordan may be making extraordinary efforts but the weight of other countries' experience suggests that eventually an interest moratorium may be necessary."

Clawson suggests that Jordan's interest in serving its debts regularly is greatest if it can anticipate large capital inflows from the same source but as commercial banks grapple with the world debt crisis they are unlikely to commit themselves to substantial new loans even to a country which is meeting its commitments.

On the other hand says Clawson, for Jordan to be able to cope with its debt "a reduction of the principle is essential." Debt buy back would seem to be part of the answer but Clawson believes that this technique is "only really useful when there is a significant difference between the face and market values of the debt and

Continued on page 9

Briefs

By Ahmad Shaker

● The Jordanian government has received material assistance from the World Food Programme (WFP) valued at \$1.4 million to aid drought victims in the southern part of the kingdom. The Ministry of Agriculture has outlined a programme to transport and distribute these materials in the south.

● The government has decided to waive the television tax of JD 12 annually for those who do not own television sets, provided they present proof that they do not own a set.

● An initial agreement has been reached between The Jordan Fertilisers Co. (JFC) and a group of Japanese companies to establish a factory to produce between 300,000 to 400,000 tons annually of fertilisers for export to Japanese markets. The new factory will be built next to the present one as a joint Jordanian-Japanese project.

● The Aqaba Regional Authority (ARA) is studying a project to establish a floating hotel in the Gulf of Aqaba as one solution to meet the increasing tourist demand on the Red Sea resort. On the other hand, it has been decided to enlarge the Petra Forum Hotel by building an additional 65 rooms and another 40 rooms to be added to the Petra Residence. In addition the Soheil Security Corp. (SSC) will build a four-star 280-room hotel in Aqaba. The new hotel will be built on the site of chalets within the vicinity of Aqaba Hotel.

● An Iraqi technical team will arrive in Amman this week to discuss with Jordanian officials the feasibility of building a railway line between Aqaba and Baghdad. The proposed line will be used to transport passengers and freight.

● Contacts are underway among the countries of the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) aiming at establishing a joint airline company. A proposal has been put forward for each of the four ACC-member countries to provide one airplane as a nucleus for the new airline.

● The Kuwaiti government has informed Jordan of its readiness to supply the kingdom with \$5-million worth of crude oil monthly as part of Kuwait's assistance to Jordan.

Deposit Rates

Euro-deposit rates:

	US	DEM	STG	Yen	SFR
1 mo.	7.13/16	8.00	14.31/32	7.50	8.13/16
2 mo.	7.13/16	8.1/16	14.31/32	7.60	8.13/16
3 mo.	7.13/16	8.1/16	14.31/32	7.60	8.13/16
6 mo.	7.7/8	8.3/8	14.13/16	7.75	8.3/4
1 year	7.7/8	8.1/2	14.7/16	7.85	8.1/2

Interbank rates (Jordan):

Saving accounts 7.5%. Call accounts 8%, 1 week 8.0%, 1 month 8.00%, 2 months 8.25%, 3 months 8.50%, 1 year 9.0%. Lending rate (AAA) 12.5%.

Dollar:

	DMK	SFR	STG	YEN	CAN	FFR
LAST 1.5905/15	1.3510/20	1.8556/63	146.10/20	1.1527/32	3338/65	

Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701

Matchmaking

Austrian exporters:

● Prefabricated walls and houses: (Glorithaus Vertriebsgesellschaft & Co Kg A110 Vienna, Mautner Markhof Gasse 94 Tel: 0222-74 33 37)

● Children's wear: (Rene-dt Maser, Textilwerke A 6851 Dorabim, Kohlerstrasse 24 Tel: 05572-64591 Fax: 05572-69831)

● Fire alarm systems: (Schrack Telecom Ag A 1121 Vienna, Potendörferstrasse 25-27 Tel: 0222-81100).

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Made-in-Jordan

TRADE FAIRS:

1) Taipei Import Fair Date: 30 August, 1990 - 5 September, 1990 Venue: Taipei World Trade Centre For further information, please contact: CETRA, SF, Ceira Tower, 333 Keelung Rd., Sec. 1, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC. Tel: 7382345 Fax: 7576443 Tel: 21676 CETRA

2) Amman International Trade Fair Date: 15-25 October, 1990. For further information, please contact: The Jordanian Exporter Co. Ltd. P.O. Box 35113 Amman, Jordan Tel: 667418/682089 Fax: 684951 Tel: 21965 BALBKI JO

3) Jakarta Industrial Fair '91 Date: 20-26 March, 1991 Venue: Jakarta Fair Grounds For further information, please contact:

Fact: Jakarta Fair Management Jalan Silang Monas Jakarta, Indonesia Tel: 359223/359221/347200 Fax: 62 (21) 359224 Tel: 44557 / 44558 PRIA For more information on any of the above mentioned trade fairs and exhibitions, please contact the Jordan Trade Association (JTA), P.O. Box 830432, Amman, Jordan.

Tel: 685603 / 685604 Tel: 685605 Tel: 23163 TRADE JO

Getting rid of the debt burden: The government launches an offensive

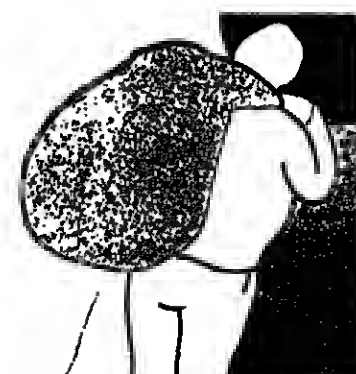
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this difference only emerges when a country ceases payments of interest on a regular basis." He does see good prospects in debt/equity swaps, a technique which has been very successfully applied in Chile, because of the substantial amount of Jordanian money abroad.

Clawson emphasises that he is not recommending that Jordan stop interest payments, he is just drawing on the experience of other debtor countries to suggest that within two to three years it may have no choice but to stop. Finance Minister Jaraneh was not willing to comment on Clawson's general thesis but says that some of Jordan's commercial debt is already available at 50-70 per cent of face value.

Local observers of Jordan's economy tend to believe that Jordan must keep up interest payments if only because the alternative to struggling to find the repayment money is much worse - the loss of all new credit.

In a country such as Jordan which is heavily dependent on short term credit to finance its



essential imports the loss of new money would quickly bring a major slowdown in all economic activity with raw materials, machinery, spare parts and consumer goods all in short supply.

For Charles Semones, vice president and international economist of Security Pacific Corp. (SPC) of the United States, the key issue for the debtor country is to maintain capital inflows in order to sustain economic development. In a paper written for the publication "Viewpoint", Semones suggested that the first step in restoring the creditworthiness of a less developed country was to recognise that legitimate interests of LDCs and banks are

not the same but need to be reconciled if a debt management programme is to be successful. Semones identified the priority objectives of debt-troubled countries as 1. Attracting capital inflows (fundamental since without capital economic growth cannot recover) 2. Achieving economic stability (price control and employment growth) 3. Maintaining national control of economic policy formation.

The objectives of banks are 1. Immunising their portfolios against future "involuntary lending" 2. Minimising profit and loss damage 3. Maximising likelihood that debt principal will ultimately be repaid.

Semones believes that the best debt management techniques are those which bring together the interests of both sides among which he names debt/equity swaps as having the most potential for actually reducing bank debt and also offering the possibility of "attracting more foreign investment over and above the amount swapped."

Overall, says Semones the reversal of capital flows is best achieved "over the long term through cautious chipping away at the problem in ways which will avoid provoking defaults."

Business Notes

Good news

IS THE Jordanian economy moving forward at last, as recent official statements suggest? Maybe not, but the good news is that many (in the public sector in particular) are now aware of the depth of the economic crisis and the need for innovative measures to tackle it. The report card on the government's performance is mixed though some agree with a foreign economist working in Amman that, "subject to the variables under their control, Jordanian officials have made the right economic policy moves."

But the trouble with Third World economies in general and Jordan's in particular is that so much of our economic destiny is in hands of others. Given such harsh facts, the country's economic future could be rough no matter how hard our policy makers work. On the other hand, plans, regulations and laws adopted when Jordan was better off may be sadly out of place in today's crisis atmosphere. Changing them will at least help change peoples' attitudes and spread the new spirit of awareness gradually permeating the country.

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Contacts and contracts

TN: Tender Number; TD: Price of Tender Documents; BB: Value of Bid Bond; DS: Deadline for Sale of Tender Documents; DD: Date Sale of Tender Documents Begins; SB: Deadline for Submission of Bids; BO: Date Bids are Opened.

— General Supplies Dept., TN: 232/90, supply of educational equipment, TN: JD 5, SB: 2/9/90; TN: 264/90, printing of statistical report, TD: JD 5, SB: 27/8/90; TN: 276, supply of diesel pick-ups, TD: JD 130, SB: 29/8/90; TN: 287, supply of electric machinery, stoves and fire extinguishers, TD: JD 5, SB: 22/8/90; TN: 292/90, supply of field batteries for portable cameras, TD: JD 5, SB: 22/8/90; TN: 293/90, exhaust testing equipment, TD: JD 10, SB: 29/8/90; TN: 294/90, supply and install service counters, TD: JD 15, SB: 29/8/90; TN: 296/90, supply of oil water filtering machine, TD: JD 20, SB: 29/8/90.

— Arab Potash Co., TN: 46/90, supply of sheaves (V-belt pulleys) pumps, TD: JD 15, SB: 19/8/90; TN: 48/90, supply of general tyres, TD: JD 100, SB: 22/8/90.

— Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co., TN: 74/90, supply of winter clothing, TD: JD 5, SB: 5/8/90; TN: 7/90, constructing playgrounds, TD: JD 5, SB: 5/8/90.

— Arab Potash Co., TN: 50/90, supply of 220 electric grills, TD: JD 10, SB: 1/9/90; TN: 51/90, supply of sponge mattresses, TD: 25, SB: 2/9/90; TN: 52/90, supply of 160 refrigerators, TD: JD 25, SB: 4/9/90; TN: 53/90, supply of toilet fittings, TD: JD 15, SB: 8/9/90.

— Yarmouk University, TN: EEC contingency fund, spare parts for laboratory equipment and scientific apparatus, TD: 5, JD, BB: 5%, SB: 1/9/90.

— Public Security Dept., re-tendering, construction of Shobuk police station, TD: JD 20, SB: 13/8/90.

— Natural Resources Authority, TN: 91/90, leasing hydraulic lifts, TD: JD 10, BB: JD 1000, SB: 4/8/90.

— Drought committee, Tafilah Governorate, TN: 1,2,3,4/90, construction of rural roads, SB: 5/8/90.

— Civil Aviation Authority, TN: 17/90, supply of paint, TD: JD 5; TN: 18/90 supply of teleprinter carbonated paper,

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Our Say...

Mediation should continue

NEWS REPORTS of the failure of Iraqi and Kuwaiti delegations who met this week in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to settle their dispute are disturbing, to say the least. Arabs everywhere were hoping for a different outcome of the talks which came after tedious mediation efforts by Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, in addition to the Arab League.

At the same time one hopes that this first session of talks will be a prelude in further rounds of negotiations on bilateral Iraqi-Kuwaiti relations and their disputes over oil rights, border lines and debts. Whatever the core of the dispute is, it is hoped that reason and sobriety will in the end lead both Arab countries to settle their differences through diplomatic means.

This is why the need is urgent for continued Arab mediation efforts. We have seen how outside countries have tried to make use of the crisis to drive a wedge between the two neighbouring Gulf countries, while attempting to alienate one party from the other. It is imperative that the Arabs, through their leaderships, the Arab League and regional organisations like the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) and the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) put pressure to bear on both countries to reach a speedy compromise and a satisfactory resolution to their dispute.

Meanwhile, the vicious Western campaign against Iraq is continuing with Israel trying its best to portray Iraq as a belligerent country whose sole aim is to destabilise the region and threaten the so-called Western interests in the area.

Last week Israel's science minister revealed that Israel has deadly chemical weapons which it could use against Iraq. Israel later on retracted the statements and called for a chemical weapons free region in the Middle East. The American Congress had also imposed economic sanctions against Iraq, while the American media continues to publish stories that are misleading and injurious to the Iraqi leadership.

The Arab leaders must be aware of Israel's attempts to use Iraq's legitimate strives to modernise its military capabilities, re-build its war-torn economy and safeguard its natural resources, foremost among which is oil, to justify its own hostilities against Iraq. The Iraqis have warned any country of conspiring against it and promised to retaliate ruthlessly if attacked.

It is vital that the current Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute is not taken out of context. It is also important that the Iraqis and Kuwaitis settle their dispute soon so as not to allow Israel and others who would like to see Iraq weakened to use the crisis as a justification for a hostile action against Baghdad.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A third world war?

To the Editor:

MY HOME in Jerusalem before 1948 was within a stone's-throw from Transit Camp, a British military base. As a young and inquisitive boy during the years of the Second World War, I used to watch British soldiers from the balcony of my home as they left the camp and as the lucky ones returned to base. As I witnessed those memorable heroes leave the camp to eternity, I wondered at the motive, impulse or impetus behind such a devastating war. Now, as I look back to the war years, I realise that the war was fought to put an end to the lawlessness that prevailed at that time in the world. But was burning question posed here is did the Second World War succeed in obliterating the state of lawlessness in human relations? The answer to this question entirely depends on whether we shall have a Third World War.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who once said: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself," perceived the danger that lay ahead in a world divided between bourgeois, Marxist and totalitarian ideologies. He emphatically suggested a United Nations that will include all nations of the world for the purpose of meeting and settling their differences, disputes and altercations in a civilised manner.

The first challenge that faced the United Nations was the Palestine Problem. Instead of coming to grips with this political and humanitarian problem, the UN procrastinated. Time is drawing on; the Israeli leaders are urged by the international community to forsake their intransigence and start thinking, reflecting and reasoning. "Let us reason saith the Lord." The coming war in the Middle East is a war of attrition and complete annihilation carried out by frustrated mobs, which might spill over and encompass the whole world.

The rulers of Israel have to recognise the legitimate and equitable rights of the aboriginal people of Palestine. They have also to reconsider their relations with their Arab neighbours if they are contemplating the establishment of enduring peace in the Middle East. Will lawlessness remain the proximate and direct cause of a Third World War?

George N. Salg,
Amman.

Soviet Jews pushing Israelis into territories

By Israel Shahak

THE WHOLE world, including the United States and the Soviet Union, is formally demanding that the Soviet Jews, now arriving in Israel in large numbers, not be settled in the occupied territories. In my opinion, however, this is not the major question, except as it pertains to their settling in East Jerusalem, which is proceeding very rapidly. Leaving aside the question of Jerusalem, what is important is how Jews will influence the settling of the territories by other Jews.

Soviet Jews coming to Israel are not actually settling in the territories and are not likely to settle there. This is because they constitute an urban group that is used to and prefers to live in big cities. They hate communism and anything resembling it.

This means that they hate regimentation and compulsion, and desire to experience the delights of freedom and free choice in their everyday lives. In the USSR, they were assigned apartments by the arbitrary decision of bureaucrats, while in Israel their desire and delight is to choose and to rent them by themselves.

This they can do relatively easily in the cities of their choice within Israel, since they and they alone receive from the Israeli government and the Jewish Agency a sum of money equivalent to \$300, and in some cases \$400, per family per month for rent, together with the agency's fee.

On the other hand, one cannot go around and look for an apartment to rent in the territories. The settling of Jews there is also a bureaucratic process, just as in the USSR. A "settling agency" determines to which settlement one will be sent, and assigns a particular flat to each settler.

Some Soviet Jews call this process "communism," and they may not be far from wrong. As one who has heard a group of newly arrived Soviet Jews exclaiming "Oh, we're in Paradise!" on entering my own supermarket in West Jerusalem, I am sure it would be very difficult to compel them to live in places which do not offer such sights. If we add their desire for other urban amenities and their fear of the Intifada, we must conclude that their settling in the territories is quite improbable in the foreseeable future.

However, the present Israeli government wants to settle many Jews in the territories even more than the former one did. It can use the Soviet Jewish immigrants to accelerate the process, but in an indirect, and much more dangerous, way.

The subsidies given to Soviet Jews for their housing raise the price of housing for young Israeli-Jewish couples to impossible heights. They do not receive any subsidies for rent, and only a very small one for buying a house. If the process is not opposed, the subsidies to Soviet immigrants will force more young Jews presently living in Israel to settle in the territories in order to find alternative housing.

In fact, in Jerusalem, where the highest housing incentives are granted to Soviet Jews, a new organisation of young Jews was founded in May to oppose this process. One of the organisation's leaders, Moshe Zion, said in an 8 June interview in Jerusalem:

"The Prime Minister said that the new immigrants will not be compelled to live in the territories. So why are we being pushed there? This is, in fact, the only housing option left to us. In the territories they give (to Jewish settlers) mortgages up to 95 per cent of the value of an apartment, while here (in Israel) they allow us only ridiculous ones."

In fact, some mortgages for Jewish settlers reach 100 per cent of the value of housing, and are interest free, while mortgage conditions inside Israel become steadily worse. Moshe Zion and other leaders of this organisation cite cases where Israeli landlords raised rents and threw out Israelis to make space for Soviet Jews.

For many ordinary hardworking Israeli couples, a rent of \$400 per month or normal mortgage payments are completely impossible. Very soon, many young native-born Israeli Jews will face three choices: homelessness; emigration, preferably to the US, countering great difficulties in the process; or settling in the territories, whether they want to or not.

If the Intifada is smashed, something which the Israeli authorities are trying to achieve as rapidly as possible, the chances of settling the territories with ordinary native Israelis are very high indeed. These places in the Israeli cities are being taken by Soviet Jews. I believe that is actually the plan of the Israeli government. It was put into operation about a year ago and is shared both by Likud and Labour. I also believe that the chances of its realisation are quite high, partly because of the divorce from reality by the Palestinian leaders and their consequent escape into the area of slogans.

This settlement plan will surely result in the total blocking of any remaining chances for peace. It still can be opposed effectively, but only if the social and political realities in Israel and the territories are understood. We must oppose all settling of the territories, and especially the process, by which all Jews, particularly Israeli Jews, are attracted by benefits available only to settlers.

Our aim must be to provide reliable information to the American public. They are paying the cost of the Israeli settlement process, while America's homeless do not receive even a fraction of the benefits given to the Jewish settlers in the territories. We must together demand a halt, and indeed a reversal, of the whole settlement process. This can be done best by demanding a stop to all the financial benefits involved in it.

Soviet Jews are only a minor part of the settling. The money which Israel gets, and which it can use for any purpose, is the most important factor. If its flow continues, increased settling by other Jews will result in war, even though the Soviet Jews themselves may not settle in the territories.

Dr Israel Shahak, a retired professor of chemistry at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, is chairman of the Israel League for Human and Civil Rights in Jerusalem.



By Dr As'ad Abdul Rahman

THE UNITED States of America, with its biased policies against Third World countries in general, and Arabs in particular, is leaving little or no margin for moderate, let alone pro-American, Arabs to defend these policies. America, once the main defender of human rights the world over, and the hope of the oppressed peoples of the world, has in many instances turned a deaf ear to the national aspirations of the Arabs, particularly the Palestinians. How can we justify America's mild, if not apologetic, reprimand of Israel regarding the Black Sunday massacre of 20 May? How can we understand America's haughty, if not insulting, attitude towards the latest Arab Summit Conference in Baghdad?

Unfriendly US policy

The United States infuriated the Arabs further by refusing to give Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat an entry visa to deliver a speech at the UN. Furthermore, America vetoed a Security Council resolution to send a fact-finding mission to the occupied territories. The list of America's unfriendly

to say the least behaviour towards the Arabs is quite long. The wrath of the Arab public towards US policy reached its climax in the aftermath of the Palestinian armed maritime venture near Tel-Aviv. America, ignoring the complex motives and circumstances behind this operation, submitted a list of demands to President/Chairman Yasser Arafat among which was an unequivocal condemnation of the operation, plus the expulsion from the PLO Executive Committee of Abu Abbas, the secretary general of the Palestinian Liberation Front which carried out the abortive venture.

When, as expected of course, President Arafat refused to meet these politically unfeasible demands, Washington broke off its dialogue with the PLO in retaliation. The accumulation of such notorious US positions over a relatively long period of time, and the continued frustration of Arabs vis-a-vis American foreign policy, has caused the rise of increasingly dominant anti-American feelings among Arabs. Because the United States has done nothing to stem this wave from its outset, having in fact made it much worse by its continuous policy of antagonising the Arabs, the grip of anti-Americanism is currently so tight and deeply rooted that only a great amount of American goodwill could reverse the tide. This anti-Americanism has had its roots in a logical and justified anger that has intensified over the years, to become simply expressed by equating the United States with Israel. So strong has become this emotional tide among Arabs that America is often referred to as the primary enemy of the Arabs, followed by Israel. It is for this overwhelming prevalence of anti-Americanism that the suspension of the US-PLO dialogue was met with so much indifference, if not relief, by the Arabs.

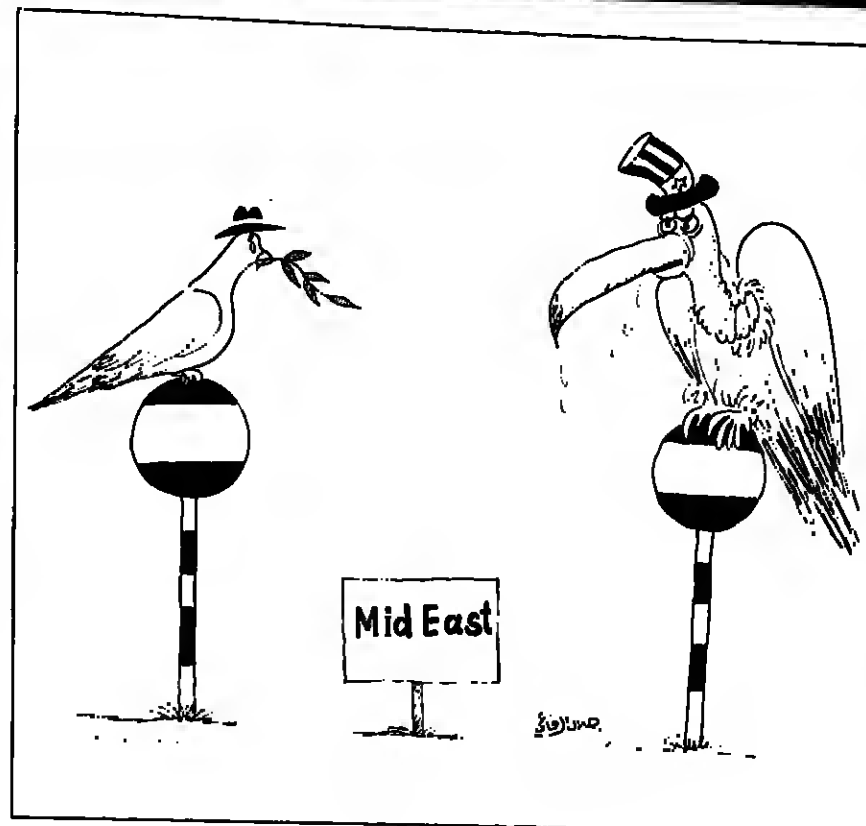
It is now clear that this present threat brandished by the USA when it severed the dialogue was an insane ploy that did not seriously affect the majority of the Palestinians. Its impact has been rather negative in the sense that if only succeeded in aggravating the situation. Right now, virtually very few in the Arab world believe that the United States could follow a just and balanced Middle Eastern policy. This con-

ing ground and rapidly becoming a force to be reckoned with. Its impact on Arab policies is beginning to be felt. Even America's friends and allies are being forced to re-consider their previous positions and feel obliged to appease the current mainstream among Arabs. Furthermore, America's political hypocrisy and inimical stands are leaving its Arab official friends without even a jot of popular base.

What has made matters worse is America's association with Israel's maximalism and political nihilism. Political intransigence and extremism is steadily gaining momentum in Arab temperaments after years of moderation — a direct result of Israel's political adumbrance. This gradual shift in Arab political temperament was rendered all the more facile by America's unequivocal support of Israel. If blood breeds blood, then extremism and nihilism in Israel breed the same in the corresponding Arab camp.

Amidst this atmosphere of contradicting views and political distrust, the possibility for having a fruitful and productive dialogue between the United States and Arabs is highly unlikely. Accordingly, the suspension of US-PLO dialogue was a step that virtually hurt no one except the moderates and/or pro-American Arabs who were not hoping to gain much from it anyway. It was by and large, "a dialogue among the deaf" that failed to really merit the efforts of any of the parties concerned — particularly the Palestinians — to salvage this dialogue.

The Arabs and the US: The dialogue of the deaf



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Negative impact

It is now clear that this present threat brandished by the USA when it severed the dialogue was an insane ploy that did not seriously affect the majority of the Palestinians. Its impact has been rather negative in the sense that if only succeeded in aggravating the situation. Right now, virtually very few in the Arab world believe that the United States could follow a just and balanced Middle Eastern policy. This con-

viction is not without logical basis as it has become an increasingly incontrovertible fact among the disgruntled Arabs, after years of inequitable practices by the American side. Hence, US suspension of its dialogue with the PLO merely left a marginal impact, yet engendered a retaliatory mood. As no one had lately taken the dialogue with Washington seriously in the sense that they never believed the United States would pressure Israel into anything it did not relish, the suspension of the dialogue was even welcomed among Arabs.

So distant apart are the positions of the Arabs and the United States at present that almost everything America does or says is directly considered anathema to Arab interests. A still unpronounced desire to hurt Washington, even at the expense of the Arabs, is steadily being felt. This desire has its various manifestations: For example, if the Americans admit that they will surely lose, though definitely less than the Arabs if they relinquish or are forced to relinquish their role in the Middle East peace process, the Arabs will not mind even though the main losers in this case will be the Arabs themselves.

The mood is so much anti-American that Arabs would say: Let it be so; we are willing to lose if only we do succeed — just once — in making the United States and Israel lose too. Moreover, when Western and Israeli circles doubted the seriousness of the Israeli threats "to burn half of Israel" with its newly developed binary chemical weapons if Iraq was attacked, the prevailing mood among Arabs was so ecstatic that the Arab response was their voiced willingness to sacrifice 20 million Arabs against two million Jews if that was the price to pay for a just and ever-lasting peace that the Israelis have continuously refused.

Loss of credibility

Finally if America threatens to leave the area and turn elsewhere where the

various profits are more certain and sumptuous, the Arab answer will probably be something like this: "Please leave us and the whole area alone because we are sure we will be better off without you." Such is the prevailing mood among the majority of Arabs after they lost almost all faith in the seriousness and credibility of the United States.

This indifferent Arab reaction to the suspension of the American-Palestinian dialogue is mainly attributed to their conviction that this dialogue was never serious enough to be productive. Some even welcomed the suspension because they believed that the famous "dialogue" was nothing more than "a means to buy more time for the Israelis to end the Intifada." Also the Arab repeated experiences with the United States have only led to this decreasing of its credibility in the Arab world. The American administration, on many occasions, has given proof after proof that it promises what it does not intend to fulfil, or at least cannot fulfil because of the strong Zionist lobby in the Congress.

Whether because of lack of a true American leadership and determination and/or because of the narrow self-expedient policies of many American official and opinion leaders, the powerful Zionist lobby in the United States has repeatedly forced senior American officials to revoke their previous utterances that may have contained unfriendly remarks about Israel. The end-result of all that has manifested itself (in Arab eyes) in the form of "American political impotence" regardless of what precipitated it.

American impotence

American political impotence has exhibited itself to Arab eyes in various forms: It has failed to stop the erection of even one settlement in the occupied territories, despite its supposedly well-known position on this issue. Also, the United States did nothing to help Shimon Peres from a coalition Government which needed only one vote to succeed, nor did it raise a finger to hinder Shamir's ascendance to power. What has alienated the Arabs even further from Washington is the latter's double standard attitudes towards this area and/or its practices that equate between the suppression of the occupation and the resistance of its victims.

According to the US double standard policy, Israel's killing of Palestinian civilians is in effect "an act of self defence," but when Palestinians are forced to retaliate in self defence, they are stamped as "terrorists." At the same time, while the US administration floods and corners the Palestinian leadership with all kinds of demands such as those vis-a-vis the last: Abu Abbas aborted military venture against Israel, the actions of men like Sharon, Eitan, Shamir, and Arenz, who daily kill Palestinian civilians (with special emphasis on the last sentence) are overlooked by the US administration!

After all this, it is not surprising that most of the Arabs right now do not need further proof of the futility of any good-will gestures, let alone, dialogue, with the United States.

THE STAR 11

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10 THE STAR

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Anti-Americanism grows

Anti-Americanism is steadily gaining ground and rapidly becoming a force to be reckoned with. Its impact on Arab policies is beginning to be felt. Even America's friends and allies are being forced to re-consider their previous positions and feel obliged to appease the current mainstream among Arabs. Furthermore, America's political hypocrisy and inimical stands are leaving its Arab official friends without even a jot of popular base.

THE STAR 11

Algerian elections

Uncertain mandate for Islamic future

By Janial Amlar

IN ALGERIA's first free and democratic elections since the North African state won its independence from France 28 years ago, the Islamic Front of Salvation (FIS) won a clear majority of the votes cast on 12 June.

Eleven political parties competed for the ballots of 12,841,769 registered voters. The FIS won 54.3 per cent of the votes. The National Liberation Front (FLN) which has held power since 1962, came in second with 28.1 per cent. Third were the independent lists at 11.7 per cent, and the Gathering for Culture and Democracy, (RCD) was fourth with fewer than six per cent of the votes.

Voter participation was 65.15 per cent in the municipal elections, and 64.15 per cent for the departmental elections, held on the same day. Both figures were lower than expected for Algeria's long-delayed first date with democracy. The FIS victory, however, put a decisive end to the FLN's 28 years of one-party rule. The FIS, created five months after the bloody Algerian riots of October 1988, won a majority of the votes in Algeria's major cities, including Algiers, Oran, Constantine and Annaba.

Created in March and legalised the following September of 1989, the FIS, ironically, has not yet held its first general congress. However, to spread its message, the Islamic Front has made extensive use of Algeria's 10,000 mosques. Its ideology, directly derived from Islam, proclaims the Sharia (Islamic law) "superior to the laws of the Republic." FIS leader Abbas Madani, who spent several years in prison for his opposition to FLN rule in the 1970s, claims his movement has three million members. The FIS recruits mainly in the mosques, but also among the 75 per cent of Algerians who are less than 30 years



Algerians calling for the application of Sharia. Observers believe the Islamists' victory was due to poverty, political corruption, and the boycott of the election by the FFS and MDA

old and who are also most afflicted with unemployment.

Last April, the FIS gathered more than 150,000 demonstrators to call for early parliamentary elections.

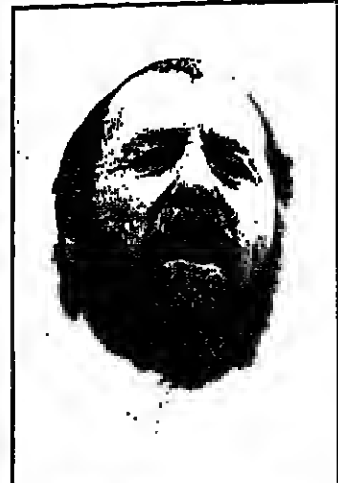
Causes of the Islamic Front victory are political and social. According to French Historian Benjamin Stora, the Islamic victory means "the Algerians are in search of authenticity." Because of the long absence of democracy in the country, and the FLN's reputation for corruption and economic and social mismanagement, it was not too hard for the most radical political force to win, particularly since its proposed solutions to Algeria's crisis were based on Islam, the religion of virtually all Algerians.

At present in Algiers, the parliament is investigating two major cases of corruption. One case relates to the disappearance of \$26 billion from gas sales contracts. No one seems to know

what happened to this astronomical amount. The other case concerns the National Chamber of Commerce. The officers are accused of favouring friends and relatives in granting import and export licenses and authorisations to buy foreign currency.

In Algeria, inflation runs at a 30 per cent yearly rate, unemployment is at 25 per cent, and external debt is over \$26 billion. It is not unusual for large families to live packed in a two-bedroom apartment, nor is it unusual for such basic foodstuffs as flour, sugar or cooking oil to be absent from supermarket shelves.

Another reason for the Islamic Front's clear victory is that two major Algerian political parties called for a boycott of the elections. These are Hocine Ait Ahmed's Front des Forces Socialistes (FFS) and Ahmed Ben Bella's Movement for Democracy in Algeria (MDA). For both



Abbas Madani: A claim to the support of millions

the FFS and MDA, there cannot be real democracy in the country before parliamentary elections are organised. The present parliament was elected four years ago and all its members are of the FLN.

This partly explains why 35 per cent of the registered voters did not go to the polls on 12 June. The vacuum was partly filled by the FIS, the Islamic challengers to the FLN's rule. In substance the call to boycott the elections, and the economic and social ills created by the FLN, paved the road for the Islamists' victory.

The next parliamentary elections are scheduled to be held in the spring of 1992. The pressure is already on President Chadli Benjedid's government, however, to hold that political rendezvous earlier. The FFS and MDA call for early parliamentary elections is supported by the Islamic party. In a press conference on the evening of 12 June, Islamic leader Abbas Madani repeated a call from his movement for the previous months: "We ask that parliamentary elections be held as soon as possible. If the government refuses to do so we

therefore ask that a referendum be held on the question." It is clear, also, that the closer parliamentary elections are to the 12 June local elections, the better the Islamic Front will perform.

An Interior Ministry official, who declined to be named, noted that, "As of 12 June the government was set on calling for early parliamentary elections if the FLN did not win over 40 per cent of the vote." Although the FLN won less than 30 per cent of the vote, it may not be in the best interest of the Islamic Front to push too hard on the issue for now. Algerian army officers are believed to be very hostile to the Islamic Front ideology and its leaders. In case of more political tension the army hard liners could be tempted to settle for direct confrontation with the Islamists.

According to former French Foreign Minister Michel Jobert, interviewed on the morning of 13 June, "There is still in front of this Islamic power, a parliament, a party and an army with its specialists: specialists in military security. The faith of Algeria is there. One will have to wait and see what the army will do." Jobert also said the Islamic Front was financed by Saudi Arabia, not Iran.

A month before the 12 June election, on 13 May, Mohammed Yazid, head of the Algerian Strategic Studies Institute, was quoted as saying that "the Islamic threat in Algeria has been overestimated by the Western media."

In the streets of Algiers, people described the FIS as simply the "son" of the FLN. In French, the words "FIS" and "son" (fils) have the same pronunciation.

Janial Amlar is a US-educated journalist based in Tangier, Morocco.

aon Mandela with Yasser Arafat."

The particular shift in American public opinion which surfaced after the visit of African National Congress Leader Nelson Mandela, who compared the struggle of the ANC to that of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and the impact it would have in the halls of the United States Congress, which recently appropriated a \$4 billion aid package for Israel, bothers the Jewish lobbyists the most.

The black Americans, who up to now were supporting the opinion that all Palestinians are evil, have started to rethink their positions. As Thomas Murphy, a production assistant from Garfield, New Jersey, said, he was once a strong backer of Israel, "but they aren't the little boy on the block any more who needs our help."

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2 AUGUST 1990



Two young boys accidentally last week discovered an archaeological treasure during a stroll through the University of Jordan area neighbourhood.

Rami Kheir Yasin, a fifth grader, and his second-grader friend Yazan Kasrawi reported their find to Rami's father who is a professor in the archaeology Department at University of Jordan.

The elder Yasin examined the rectangular slab of limestone, realised it was a significant piece of Roman archaeology, and reported the boys' discovery to the Archaeology Department of UJ.

Supervisor of the Archaeological Museum at UJ, Jumanah Assad, told The Star that the limestone (68 cm in height, 1.27 cm in width and 37 cm in density) could be part of a Roman gate or tomb. The surface of the limestone is partially damaged and the department believes that someone deliberately set out to ruin the artefact.

"We (at the Archaeology Department) think that the piece was thrown by someone for some reason on the site," said Assad. No excavations have been made beneath ground level in that area, so the stone did not come from there.

Assad notes that a lot of thefts of archaeological artefacts are occurring, with people removing historical remains from their original places and displaying the treasures in their homes. The individual who misplaced this Roman slab is suspected of stealing the piece and then getting rid of it in panic.

The stone now stands among other artefacts in the garden of the Archaeological Museum at the University of Jordan for public viewing.



The Amman Baccalaureate School recently invited its graduates to attend a meeting to discuss the establishment of an alumni club. The meeting was held by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath at her residence in Amman.

The meeting held on the occasion of the school's 10th anniversary, concluded with the furnishing of an administrative board of eight students, representing their respective class year (1983-1989). Students also had the chance to see and talk to their former teachers.

Minister of Tourism and Mr Abdel Karim Al Kabriti held a dinner party Sunday to honour Mr and Mrs Akira Aruti, chairman of the board of Tokyo's Nishio Keizai Shimbun group of newspapers, and an accompanying delegation.

The dinner, held at Plaza Hotel Amman's restaurant, was attended by Minister of Culture Mr Khalid al Karaki, Mr and Mrs Yusef Azar, Mr and Mrs Nasir Attallah, Mr and Mrs Amal Al Masri, and Mr and Mrs Tawfik Kassar, the Japanese ambassador in Amman. Mr Tadayuki Nooyama, Mr Osumi El-Sherif, Mr and Mrs George Hawatme, and Mr Salim El-Nihal. The Nishio Keizai Shimbun newspaper had last year sponsored a cultural exhibition on Jordan held in the Japanese capital. During his visit to Amman, Mr Aruti was decorated by the Majesty Queen Noor in recognition of his support of the Jordanian people.

To welcome Mr Ibrahim Al Ammar, director of the Saudi Research and Publishing Co. newly opened bureau in Jordan, Mr Ali Dajani held a reception on Saturday at Jordan InterContinental Hotel. The bureau represents a number of Saudi publications including Asharq Al-Awsat, Sayyidat, Al Majallah and Al Muslimoon. Attending the reception were Mr Ali Salafi, Mr Jawad Marraqah, Mr Osumi El-Sherif and Mr Salah Abdel Samud. Mr Ali Ammar had lived in Amman for many years when he was cultural attaché at the Saudi embassy in Amman.

Save the Children held an exhibition of Bani Hamida Rugs, wall hangings and cushions at the Plaza Hotel between 28 to 30 July. Helene George Sayyagh, the sales director of this project, supervised the exhibit. The Bani Hamida women's weaving project is a new enterprise in Jordan, involving 600 recently settled bedouin women. It began in 1985 by Save the Children in association with Noor al Hussein Foundation to promote and revive Jordanian handicrafts while providing a source of income also.

The pieces are all wool from Bani Hamida mountain sheep.

Continued on page 14

Scrapbook

A bird's eye view

ON THE ground and in the air. No, you're wrong. I have no intention of writing about special forces. I want to talk about people's behaviour while driving their cars and while flying. You may see these things on any given day, but you're too nice to talk about them in public.

Let me start with drivers in Amman. Sometimes one wonders how some managed to get their licenses. They signal right when they're going left, they will stop suddenly without giving any warning; and they totally disregard the lanes.

A drive from home to the office can be nerve racking. I usually leave my office around 6 p.m. and after the 10 minute drive home I need about two hours to unwind. I never thought I could come so close to feeling like killing something!

Then, God forbid that you get to the fifth circle intersection and discover that the traffic lights are out of order, because then one must rely on the traffic policeman to organise the chaos. Enough said!

What I do find very interesting, though, is watching what people do while stopped at traffic lights. The young man taking his girlfriend out for a ride leans over, whispers in her ear and she gives him a big smile in return. Then, there's the mother who has a chance to swat the brat in the back seat upside his head. And, don't forget the man who decides to scratch the inside of his skull through his left nostril.

I must mention that I never knew passenger cars could be licensed to carry 28 people. I've seen them. Eight adults and 20 children.

"Well, you may say 'how about the way all the foreign tourists drive?' Don't talk about that because you don't want to upset them. Quite frankly, we need their money."

Now, let's take a flight and see what people do. I feel sorry for the cabin crew at times. I wouldn't have as much patience myself.

For example I recently went on a trip, and the cabin crew began serving the passengers as they are supposed to do. Before reaching my destination, a gentleman seated two rows away from me called the stewardess over. He handed her a JD 35 bottle of perfume because, he told her, she was "the best maid" he had ever had. Between sobs and wiping the tears running down her face, the stewardess handed the perfume back to the passenger and told him that she was not a maid.

I admire that girl. Faced with that situation I would have probably told the gentleman to take that bottle and stuff it!

And what about the free-rocket holder in first class who thinks he owns the plane? He's usually the one who gets hungry one hour after meal service is finished; likes to drink vodka martinis, shaken, not stirred; and gets angry because he had his heart set on having Baked Alaska for dessert but it was not on the menu.

In fairness to passengers, I have to say that cabin crew members are paid to be nice, to do their job efficiently and to wear a smile. Airplanes are no place for hot tempered crew. To the steward who lost his temper and slugged the passenger in 14D on the kisser, I can only say, "If you forgot to take your valium before the flight, it's no one's fault but your own!"

Magda Hamzeh

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THE STAR 13

By Masood Halder
Special to The Star

US support for Israel, 'Solid, but not the rock that it was'

NEW YORK — With the end of the Cold War and the receding Soviet threat, doubts about the need to subsidise Israel and other enemies of the United States are emerging within the minds of the American people, prompting pro-Israel lobbyist groups to launch a campaign to contain the damage.

A survey conducted by CBS News and the New York Times summed it up as follows: "American support for Israel: solid, but not the rock that it was."

The survey observed that, in a similar opinion poll in 1988, when the Americans were asked

"should the United States be more sympathetic to the concerns of the Palestinian minority in Israel than it is now?" 49 per cent felt it should not, while only 26 per cent felt that it should. However, the new survey showed 38 per cent of the people stressing the need for the United States to sympathise with the Palestinians while 37 per cent still supported American aid to Israel.

The Americans now argue that the money given to Israel and other nations should be used to combat America's own domestic problems like homelessness, drug abuse, joblessness and its sagging economy. The pro-Israel lobbyist groups counter that "such views reflect a kind of nas-

cent isolationism among the Americans."

"There is a growing preoccupation with domestic issues at the expense of overseas concerns, driven largely by the perception of a waning external threat to US security from the Soviet Union," said David Harris, the director of the office of government and international affairs for the American Jewish Committee in Washington.

Harris claimed that the Americans did not comprehend the "complicated details and nuances" of Middle East politics. "We often find ourselves having to confront simple and ultimately false analogies that attempt to compare, for example, South Africa with the Middle East or Nel-

son Mandela with Yasser Arafat."

The particular shift in American public opinion which surfaced after the visit of African National Congress Leader Nelson Mandela, who compared the struggle of the ANC to that of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and the impact it would have in the halls of the United States Congress, which recently appropriated a \$4 billion aid package for Israel, bothers the Jewish lobbyists the most.

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2 AUGUST 1990

Living a millionaire's life

National Geographic journalist Thomas Abercrombie has spent 35 years of his life reporting from the four corners of the globe and now he's following the footsteps of another fellow traveller; Ibn Battuta.

By Charlotte Hale
Star Staff Writer

"A FRIEND of mine once said, 'I don't want to be a millionaire, I just want to live like one,' and journalism is a damn good way of doing that," says Thomas Abercrombie, world renowned photographer and writer for "National Geographic" magazine.

During his 35-year career with National Geographic, Abercrombie's American passport has come to resemble an atlas rather than a form of identification — stamps from Turkey, Tunisia, Yemen, Oman, Iran, France, Morocco, Afghanistan, Egypt, Switzerland, the South Pole, Spain and Saudi Arabia fill the light blue pages of the document and illustrate only a few of the countries Abercrombie has travelled through during his 60 years "on earth".

Jordanians might recognise Abercrombie's name from the byline of his February 1984 article on Jordan, which appeared in the glossy, full-colour American publication. Or perhaps Muslims may recall his famous photos of Mecca taken during the "Haj" (pilgrimage season).

Abercrombie passed through Jordan again last week for his upcoming piece on the legendary Moroccan traveller, Ibn Battuta. "Jordan doesn't figure much into the article," notes Abercrombie between sips of sweetened American coffee taken on the terrace of the Jordan InterContinental Hotel. "We're using Amman as a headquarters, a place to return to, to get some fresh air and organise our work."

A Minnesota native, Abercrombie studied journalism at the University of Minnesota before landing his first job in the early fifties at Wisconsin's "Milwaukee Journal," a premiere photojournalism paper at that time.

After four years of general reporting and photography, a friend told the young journalist that National Geographic was looking for a photographer. Abercrombie applied and got the job and he has stayed with the publication since his first photo

essay on the Chesapeake Bay appeared in the mid-fifties. Later, however, writing articles became the main responsibility of the multi-talented journalist.

"A famous Hollywood screenwriter probably best described what it's like being a writer for a photo magazine. He said writing screenplays in Hollywood was like being a piano player in a whorehouse. No one really notices you that much, but you have a hell of a time doing it," chuckles the veteran journalist.

With his greyish-white hair and full beard, and rounded stomach drooping over his belt buckle, Abercrombie vaguely resembles an old college professor, especially when he slips his black-framed reading glasses low on his nose. He slouches back in the patio chair at the end of a workday which began at 6 a.m., and recounts a few of his more interesting happenings as a National Geographic staff member.

He recalls "smuggling" a tiger out of India for the Washington National Zoo and spending a summer running a sailboat through the Baltic Sea as two of his favourite adventures.

"Playing Buzhashi in Afghanistan was another memorable experience," recalls Abercrombie while puffing tobacco through his dark wooden pipe. "It's like polo except you hit around a dead calf and there are absolute-

ly no rules."

Though National Geographic does not have designated area specialists, Abercrombie has worked in the Middle East more than any other journalist at the publication. His first assignment in the region was in Saudi Arabia "way back in 1960 or 1963." Although he said the lack of roads made travel difficult, he was awestruck by the country's beauty.

"The Middle East is a more important area of the world than it's given credit for. The United States virtually ignores it," observes the Muslim journalist. "America is a country of postponers and this is one of the things they are postponing," he says.

However, Abercrombie is not going to let his mother country ignore the region as it relates to the 14th century traveller Ibn



Abercrombie checks a few facts about Egypt after completing his work there. (Left) A photo of a Muslim from Mali Abercrombie took on a trek through the old Muslim empire; it appeared in National Geographic in 1972.

Battuta, the subject of his current assignment.

"Though Battuta is very well-known in this area, hardly anyone in the United States has ever heard of him," he notes. "Scholars know him because he's a good source of historical information and I encountered him a lot in my work, but none of the translated versions (of Battuta's travelogues) give you information straight-up."

The assignment will take Abercrombie and his photographer Jim Stanfield to more than 38 countries spanning from Gibraltar and Spain, across North Africa and into the West Bank, Syria, Turkey, Russia, India, and China. Like Battuta, the two journalists kicked off their fieldwork in mid-May in Tangier from where the famous geographer and explorer departed for his first journey to Mecca for the pilgrimage around 1345.

Abercrombie and Stanfield are not following Battuta's exact route, but are instead adjusting their journeys to the seasonal conditions and political situations in the various countries, particularly China and the West Bank.

A seasoned journalist, Abercrombie would not reveal the exact cost of the extensive trip. "Let's just say it's a shocking amount," he says slyly. The two journalists hope to complete their travels by the end of 1990 and return to the United States where Abercrombie will begin the tedious process of writing and editing his article. With text and photos combined, the Battuta piece will run at least 50 pages long and will hopefully appear in the magazine by the end of 1991.

"Physically, this is bloody hard work," Abercrombie says, "but it's still fun after 35 years."

Continued from page 13

But he says that ADC, which was founded by former Senator James Aburezek, does not take the side of any Arab government. "We are not a lobbying organisation although we lobby for human rights issues," he says. One of the main issues where ADC has spent its efforts is the Palestinian Intifada. "We have lobbied for the opening of schools and universities in the occupied territories and during the Intifada we launched our highly-successful Bye Witness Israel programme which resulted in sending 12 delegations to the Israeli-occupied areas," Najjar says.

Mr Najjar believes that one of the main objectives of ADC is to awaken the American public to facts about Arab culture. "They (the Americans) have been bombarded for so long by misinfor-

mation which they have been receiving from Anti-Arab organisations."

As to the funding of ADC, Najjar says that "we can never be financially secure because there, so much to be done." But he says that support of the organisation's members and sympathisers has enabled ADC to perform its objectives from publishing booklets to organising conferences and sending delegations. "We have to work through our resources," he says.

As to his expectations for the nineties, Najjar says that Arab-Americans "have been significantly recognised" by the American administration. "But we need to work harder to increase our membership." ADC will have a change of administration this month after its president, Abdeen Jbara, has resigned. "He has been with us for a long time and has done a wonderful job," says Najjar.

2 AUGUST 1990

News

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Programmes on Jordan Television from 4 August to 10 August

ENGLISH PROGRAMME

SATURDAY

8:30 - Joint Account.
9:00 - Encounter: Hosted by Rami Khouri. This week's guest is Mr Mahmoud El-Sherif.
9:30 - Classical Music.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - Feature Film, Hirschma out of Ashes, Starring Max von Sydow.

SUNDAY

8:30 - Hey Dad: Martin discovers that Simon is not doing well at school, so he takes it out on his secretary who resigns in protest.
9:10 - The Nuclear Age (last Ep), Visions of Peace.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - Hunter.

MONDAY

8:30 - Perfect Strangers, Blast from the Past: Marvin shows up again, this time without explosives and claims he is being hunted by a bunch of killers.
9:10 - Murder She Wrote, The Body Politic.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - The Endless Game.

TUESDAY

8:30 - Golden Girls, Old Friends.
9:10 - Heart of the High Country.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - Paradise, Devil's Canyon.
11:00 - Police Squad, The Butler Did It: A classic case of kidnapping a rich couple's daughter for a ransom.

WEDNESDAY

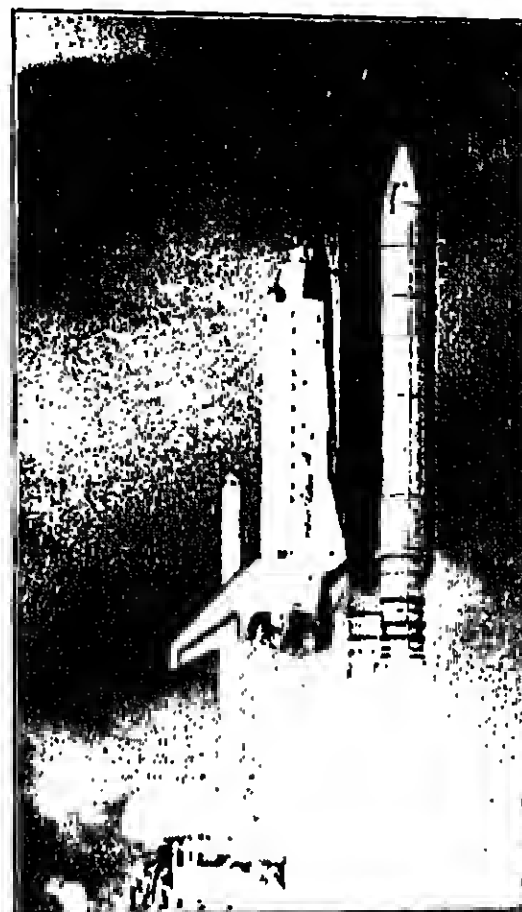
8:30 - A Family for Joe, A Little Romance: A rich lady wants to divorce her husband and has her eyes set on Grand-papa Joe, but the kids worry and decide to do something about losing their dad.
9:10 - Documentary, Running out of Time: This objective documentary discusses the agricultural, industrial and economic hardships the Palestinians, in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, go through. It ends with a simple conclusion, Peace.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - Mini series, Challenger, part one: This documentary sheds some light on the preparations for the Challenger's historic space flight in NASA and the average pre-flight daily life of the astronauts; their expectations, hopes and anxieties.

THURSDAY

8:30 - A Different World.
9:10 - The Return of Sherlock Holmes: Secret British naval documents disappear mysteriously. "Scot", the sailor, is killed. St James commits suicide — this is a job for Mr Holmes.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - Feature film, Lost in London, Starring Freddie Jones.

FRIDAY

8:30 - Empty Nest, Did you ever See a Dream?
9:10 - Midnight Caller.
10:00 - News in English.
10:20 - Anything More Would be Greedy, Georgian Silver.



Challenger: Wednesday, at 10:20

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FRENCH PROGRAMME

SATURDAY

5:45 - Champs-Elysees: A variety programme presented by Michel Drucker. This week's guest is Claude Nougaro, the Group Kassav and Ballet troupes.
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - Les petites heures du terrain vert: A sport programme about training athletes in the football courts.

SUNDAY

5:45 - Denver le derailler, d'inspiration: A cartoon series for children.
6:10 - La Guyane crise de croissance: A documentary programme about the emigration crisis in Guyana.
6:25 - Ca c'est du Cinema: A documentary programme about the seventh art: The bases of shooting films.
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - Carnet de note: A musical programme.

MONDAY

5:55 - Terre d'explorer: A documentary programme.

TUESDAY

5:05 - Des chiffres et des lettres: A game show programme.
6:30 - La chance aux chansons: A variety programme.
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - Aujourd'hui en Jordanie: A weekly local magazine presented by Saleh Madi.

WEDNESDAY

6:00 - L'ami Maupassant "Berthe": A French drama series.
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - French Varieties.

THURSDAY

5:45 - Mollérissimo (Eps. 16): A French cartoon series for children.
6:10 - Des chiffres et des lettres: A game show programme.
6:30 - La chance aux chansons: A variety programme presenting the French old singers.
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - Sirocco, le magazine de l'évasion "La Marginales": A documentary programme.

FRIDAY

5:40 - Le retour du Grand Blanc: A comedy film starring Pierre Richard.
7:00 - News in French.
7:15 - La révolution de l'intelligence "Le grand canal de Chine": A documentary programme about sciences.



"Gremlins II"

Rating: ★★ and a half

THE FIRST "Gremlins," in 1984, was a meditation on movie myths — on Christmas, small towns and things that will jump up and scare you. It was a superior B movie and a lot of fun. "Gremlins II" is a meditation on sequels, and like most sequels, it's a faded imitation of the original. Yes, it has some high laughs and some of the special effects are fun, but the movie has too many gremlins and not enough story line.

A word of background may be in order. You may recall from the original movie that gremlins are the mischievous alter-egos of innocent, cuddly little creatures named Mogwais. They're cute and would make great pets, except for the two laws of gremlins, which are that they should never be fed after midnight, and should never, ever be allowed to get wet. When they're fed, they turn into horrible little monsters like the creature in "Alien," and when they get wet, they multiply like sexual nukes.

In the first movie, gremlins took over the small town of Kingston Falls, New York. In the sequel, the heroes of the first movie (Zach Galligan and Phoebe Cates) have moved to the big city, where they work for a zillionaire named Daniel Clamp (John Glover).

Clamp, who seems to be a cross between Donald Trump and Ted Turner, if such a thing is possible, owns cable networks, financial concerns and a giant automated tower so high that passing planes make a racket in his office. His corporate symbol, which supplies one of the biggest laughs in the movie, is a globe that has been flattened out by being clamped between the teeth of the letter C.

Clamp is now determined to evict the ancient owner of a little shop in Chinatown — the shop where the first Mogwais came from. Clamp wants to build a Chinatown trade center. But when his bulldozers roar over the little shop, a tiny creature escapes and ends up inside the Clamp Tower, where, of course, it is fed, gets wet and turns into a marauding band of vicious gremlins.

At about this point, if not sooner, the movie abandons all pretense of telling a story and becomes a series of gags. Some of them are funny, some are near-misses, others fall flat, and who can debate what's funny, anyway?

I enjoyed Christopher Lee's supporting role as the evil Dr. Caber, who collects diseases and manipulates genes. And Robert Prosky does a nice job as Grandpa Fred, the host of one of Clamp's creature-feature programmes. John Glover, who can play convincing villains as easily in a comedy as in a drama, has fun with Clamp.

But eventually the inspiration runs thin. We know the gremlins will pop up when they're not expected, and look ugly, and scare everyone. And we know there will be a particularly gruesome scene (the microwave oven of the first movie meets its match this time in a paper shredder). We know that Galligan and Cates will try to convince everyone that the gremlins mean business.

And we know that this movie exists essentially to cash in on the brand name of the original "Gremlins." It's brainless summer fun, but you know what? I'd just as soon think, even in the summer time.

MINI REVIEW

"MEN DON'T LEAVE" (Warner, \$89.95): On the heels of "Music Box," Jessica Lange took a much different type of role in director Paul ("Risky Business") Brickman's highly enjoyable comedy-drama, playing a single mother whose life becomes complicated by a new romance... as well as by an "older" woman's ("Working Girl's") Joan Cusack) interest in one of her two sons. *** (PG-13: AS, P)

"PALM SPRINGS WEEKEND" (Warner, \$59.95): This 1963 comedy-drama, about teen-agers on the loose in the title setting, is somewhat laughable now for its dated approach. However, it also features early screen appearances by two talents who became TV staples, Stefanie Powers and Robert Conrad. Warner Bros. fixtures Troy Donahue, Connie Stevens and Ty Hardin also appear. ** (Not rated: AS, V)

HELD OVER: "AGE OLD FRIENDS" (HBO, \$79.99): Acting veterans Hume Cronyn and Vincent Gardenia make a compelling team in this made-for-cable drama about two elderly friends in a retirement home, whose relationship takes interesting and sometimes painful turns as each man tries to compensate for what the other is lacking. Michele Scarabelli lends excellent support as Cronyn's nurse. *** (Not rated: P)

US SPORTS ROUND UP

Sports From The Press Box

By Lee Lerner

The emergence of Ramon Martinez has been a bright spot in an otherwise dark year for the Los Angeles Dodgers' pitching staff.

Fernando Valenzuela, who did throw a no-hitter June 29, has yet to regain the consistency that made him famous. Orel Hersher, the team's Cy Young-winning ace, is sitting out the season recovering from shoulder surgery. And the Angels' bullpen, once one of baseball's best, has been racked by injuries and opposing batters.

But the way Martinez has sparked on the diamond is almost enough to make fans forget about the team's pitching woes.

The 22-year-old native of the Dominican Republic first earned national notice in June when he struck out 18 batters in a game against Atlanta. It was the most Ks by a Dodger pitcher since Sandy Koufax fanned 18 in a 1962 game.

Since then, Martinez has continued to whiff opposing players regularly. Barring injury, he has a good chance to become the first Dodger to win the National League strikeout championship since Valenzuela did it in 1981.

But who knows? Recently Martinez has been battling Boston's Roger Clemens and Texas' Nolan Ryan for the strikeout lead of both major leagues. The last time a Dodger won that title? In 1981, when Valenzuela's 180 strikeouts led both the NL and AL.

Individual awards are fine, but it's what a player does to help his team that really counts. In June, the Dodgers were mired in a five-game losing streak. They turned to Martinez for help and he responded with a four-hitter against the Padres that started a Los Angeles winning streak.

After the game, Martinez talked about the victory.

"In the late innings, I got looser. My fastball was running more, I was throwing my curve and changeup better and everything was working," he said.

Dodger fans hope everything continues to work for Martinez for many seasons to come.

Sports Line

By Dale Dunlap

Football season is here. Saturday the annual NFL Hall of Fame Game will be played in Canton, Ohio. I know you have been waiting for it. Remember last year's game?

Oh well, even if you don't remember the game, maybe you remember the induction ceremonies. Don't you remember those stirring speeches by Willie Wood, Art Shell and Mel Blount?

Actually, I do remember Terry Bradshaw's. He said he still wished he could play football. "I would just love to put my hands up under [center] Mike Webster's rear end one more time." That amusing line aside, it was pretty dull stuff. I think the champion San Francisco 49ers played that day, but I could not swear by it.

I guess exhibition (or preseason) is the NFL calls it) football is just one of those necessary events you have to go through waiting for the regular season. It's sort of like having to eat your broccoli before you could have the chocolate cake when you were younger.

This season promises to be one of adjustments, with the lucrative NFL deals and television forcing an extra week in the season. And there is an off-week for each team this year. Oh, don't forget we have more playoff teams this year.

I just can't get enough of those wild-card games. Remember last year's wild-card teams? Yes, I think I remember the Eagles, but I don't remember the rest. It's just a haze.

The megamaniacal NFL monster just keeps getting bigger all the time and we keep waiting for seasons to start, ready to flip on the TV or head to the stadium. Boy, what suckers we are. We keep coming back for more and more and more football. We are lucky to still have wives.

Just remember that when you are listening to Bob Griese's induction speech Saturday instead of mowing the lawn. Have a nice fall.

ROCK TRACKS

By Joel Zarrow

Guns N' Roses won't have anything on the record shelves until early 1991 — maybe. Says a Geffen representative, "Guns N' Roses has been in the studio a long, long time (since March). They aren't in any real rush." Roses hasn't had an album out since the 1987 debut, "Appetite for Destruction." The explanation for the delay: "They aren't recording continuously. They also are recording enough tracks for four albums." She denies any friction between band members and says that personal tensions play no part in the delays. But when I spoke to an insider before they started recording, she told me, "If they show up at the studio at the same time it's a miracle."

Poison plans to undergo a concert trek come September in support of the just released "Flash & Blood" LP. The band — whose first three albums have sold over 8 million copies — first heads to England to join Aerosmith and Whitesnake for the Aug. 18 Monsters of Rock concert. Band member Nikki Rockell says the new album has, "A large percentage of live recordings, which is a first for us, but we refused to include any cover songs. Some bands are cheating their fans by using outside material. A Poison record expresses our emotions, our feelings, our vibe."

Aerosmith the Movie? That's the buzz I've heard around town. An Aerosmith spokesman confirms the rise and fall and rise again of what Rolling Stone called "probably the most influential hard rock band of the '70s." It would be quite a story, too. All five Aerosmith members are recovering alcoholics, most admit to having used drugs and lead singer Steven Tyler admits to being a "pharmaceutical disposal" who was at one time at the top of "rock's most wasted list." The drug-ravaged band all but dropped out of sight in the early '80s and has come back clean in the '90s to colossal-sized concert popularity.

Singer Tyler turned down the role of Prince's girlfriend in his "Graftiti Bridge" feature out of fear of being seen as just another Prince girlfriend. "All the names and faces of his past girlfriends blur into one after a while," she says of Prince's penchant for carrying on-screen loves off screen. Also, with her debut "Girls Night Out" disk at the top of the R&B charts and crossing over, she "didn't want my first movie to be anything musical. I want people to take me seriously as an actress rather than a singer who wants to be in a movie."

MAGICWORD

HOW TO PLAY: Read the list of words. Look at the puzzle. You'll find these words in all directions — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backwards. Draw a circle around each letter of a word found in the puzzle, then strike it off the list. Circling it will show a letter has been used but will leave it visible should it also form part of another word. Find the big words first. When letters of all listed words are circled, you'll have the given number of letters left over. They'll spell out your MAGICWORD.

JIM HENSON'S WORLD (Sol.: 8 letters)
A-Animals; B-Big Bird; Bold; C-Cared; Cartoon; Characters; Clever; Creator; D-Disney; E-Emotion; F-Faith; Famous; Fans; Fozie Bear; Frog; Funny; G-Glue; Globball; Gonzo; Goodness; I-Ideas; J-Jokes; K-Kermi; Kind; L-Large; Laugh; M-Media; Miss Piggy; Movies; Muppets; Music; P-Popular; Positive; S-Sesame Street; Smile; T-Technology; Television; True; W-Wise; Wonderful; Writer.

This Week's Answer: CHILDREN

YSGRTECARAHCCDS
YGGIPSSIMYGALHS
POPULARGEHRODYE
WLJOKESNTTBENNN
GORFANSIOIRNNZD
LNNDSIMOGAUOFSO
OHODDRNBCFIHABO
BCIRETIRWSCGMI
AETKMRDNIKIUOVI
LTOCDUFVSVS AUOD
ISMI LEEUELULSME
SREVELCSLAMI NAA
TIEETEERTSEMASES
EVITISOPMUPPETS
CREATORAEBEIZOF

TOP VIDEO RENTALS

1. Back to the Future Part II, Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd, MCA/Universal Home Video (PG-1989)
2. The Fabulous Baker Boys, Jeff Bridges, Beau Bridges, IVE (R-1989)
3. The Little Mermaid, Animated, Walt Disney Home Video (G-1989)
4. Black Rain, Michael Douglas, Andy Garcia, Paramount Home Video (R-1989)
5. Harlem Nights, Eddie Murphy, Richard Pryor, Paramount Home Video (R-1989)
6. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation, Chevy Chase, Warner Home Video (PG-13-1989)
7. Dead Poets Society, Robin Williams, Touchstone Home Video (PG-1989)
8. Look Who's Talking, John Travolta, Kirstie Alley, RCA/Columbia Home Video (PG-13-1989)
9. Sea of Love, Al Pacino, Ellen Barkin, MCA/Universal Home Video (R-1989)
10. Tango & Cash, Sylvester Stallone, Kurt Russell, Warner Home Video (R-1989)

TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

1. Time, Clint Black, RCA
2. Livin' It Up, George Strait, MCA
3. Pass It On Down, Alabama, RCA
4. Pickin' On Nashville, The Kentucky Headhunters, Mercury
5. Here in the Real World, Alan Jackson, Arista
6. No Holdin' Back, Randy Travis, Warner Bros.
7. RVS III, Ricky Van Shelton, Columbia
8. Country Club, Travis Tritt, Warner Bros.
9. Willow in the Wind, Kathy Mattea, Mercury
10. Garth Books, Garth Brooks, Capitol

TOP POP SINGLES

1. Step By Step, New Kids On The Block, Columbia
2. I Must Have Been Love, Roxette, EMI
3. She Ain't Worth It, Celine Dion, MCA
4. Prisoner, Bell Biv DeVoe, MCA
5. Hold On, Wilson Phillips, SBK
6. I'll Be Your Shelter, Taylor Dayne, Arista
7. Cradle of Love, Billy Idol, Chrysalis
8. Rub You the Right Way, Johnny Gill, Motown
9. Do You Remember?, Phil Collins, Atlantic
10. Ready or Not, After 7, Virgin

TOP POP ALBUMS

1. Pretty Woman, Soundtrack, EMI
2. Step By Step, New Kids On The Block, Columbia
3. I'm Breathless, Madonna, Warner Bros.
4. Please Hammer Don't Hurt 'Em, M.C. Hammer, Capitol
5. I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got, Sinéad O'Connor, EMI
6. Poison, Bell Biv DeVoe, MCA
7. Wilson Phillips, Wilson Phillips, SBK
8. Brigade, Heart, Capitol
9. Soul Flyer, Michael Bolton, Columbia
10. Violator, Depeche Mode, Sire

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Syncopated drumbeats
11. Pass catcher
16. One-sided
16. A Rodgers partner
17. Deliverers
18. Hungary's Nagy
18. As written: Mus.
20. All
21. Axilla
23. Young Guthrie
25. Musical tones
27. Deliverer
28. Communicates à la spaz
31. Planks
33. Noted Indian novelist
34. —lane
38. Adbx on an envelope
37. Egypt's — stone
40. Author Gay and family
42. Footless
43. Thimble rones
45. Alouette's bill
46. It is, in theory
47. Two jiggers
51. Dropped a fly
53. Goal
55. Ding or dong
56. Cude shelter
58. Fomur
59. Veneer
61. He, to Louis
62. Albatross island
63. Return a P.O.W. to the native land
66. Va's kin
67. Crackles
68. Ltr enclosure
69. Rating

DOWN

1. Neutron star
2. "Peer Gynt"
3. Gross
4. Porter relative
5. Venture
6. Romance lang.
7. Hold back
8. Hardmen
9. Gibbon
10. Lined ilion
11. Voice of Grandfather Time?
12. What we watched O'ar
13. It
14. T-ans' loppers
22. Bodies' meeting place in Scotland?
24. Lubed the time
26. Mund
29. Cereal grass
30. Where to build houses
32. Autocratic rulers: Var
35. Last word in French bust
36. Fabulist
37. Alcolitbas
38. Nasier's real name
39. "The Mikado," for one
39. Plato was his pupil
41. Author Deighan
44. Hors d'oeuvres
46. N.Y. time in June
48. Tel
49. Becoma uplight
50. Most fox
52. Haiden
54. Hang
57. Gampus
59. Ragallu Miss, in a song
60. Cialls' companion
64. Hissitation sounds
65. Waa, small h.

Solution

INWSSSSSV SVS
SIVHIVHVVH
INTVOHONVET
VEDONEVVE
SIVONS VISE VEE
SEHOONE OOV
SSESVI VLESOR
NIV ZSSIVV
OVV EIEH SOIVH
SIVVA SEH OVH
SIVHVV AEVE VIS
EIVH SVHIVHVV
SIVH SVHIVHVV

Jordan Bridge

By Ghassan Ghanem

Watch the lady

HERE ARE three boards that came in two weeks ago during the Sunday morning ladies duplicate at the Jordan bridge Association (JBA).
The bidding sequences are given the way I propose them based on our Jordanian style natural system, then you have to decide how you are going to play the hands.
Board No. 4, Both vol., Dealer: West
(North) (South)
♠ 4
♥ A7432
♦ 1054
♣ 862
(North) (East) (South) (West)
♠ 4
♥ 4
♦ 4
♣ 4

(North) (East) (South) (West)
♠ 4
♥ 4
♦ 4
♣ 4
(North) (East) (South) (West)
♠ 4
♥ 4
♦ 4
♣ 4
(North) (East) (South) (West)
♠ 4
♥ 4
♦ 4
♣ 4

East led a small spade, how do you play?
Board No. 12, N.S. vol., Dealer: West
(North) (South)
♠ 4
♥ A7432
♦ 1054
♣ 862
(North) (East) (South) (West)
♠ 4
♥ 4
♦ 4
♣ 4
A well-judged competitive double by South and a "Tarzan" type 4 ♠ by North.
East led a small diamond and West continued the suit. You ruff and ...
How do you go on?
Those of you who are still with me, shall not be kept waiting until next week.
Board No. 4: North put the ♠ 4 covered with the queen and king. She collected trumps in three rounds and played the ♠ K which was taken by West's ♠ A. West played back a diamond to remove the only dummy's entry while the heart suit is still blocked and the slam went light.
Watch what would happen if you play an automatic small diamond from dummy.
When West is in with the ♠ A, she is a dead duck, she cannot play diamond to the Ace and Jack. What if the ♠ A was with East? Now you can finesse the ♠ J.
Board No. 12: After winning the ♠ A cash the ♠ A and ruff a diamond. Cash the ♠ Q, ♠ K and ♠ A before going on to cross ruffing.
It is the old good simple rule: Before cross ruffing, cash your winners.
Board No. 12: If you cashed the ♠ A you are too down! the ♠ K is not with West.
Amira Odeh finished heart trumps and ruffed the diamond suit to lead for West. Well done and happy landing. And the correct play when you win the Ace if you fear a North who might take a slam investigation, settled for the game after South negative responses.

IN WHAT CITY IS THE ACCOUNTANTS HALL OF FAME LOCATED?

HOW OLD WAS MARCO POLO WHEN HE ARRIVED IN CHINA IN 1275?

WHERE WAS THE FIRST "WILD TURKEY FESTIVAL OF COUNTRY MUSIC" PRESENTED?

ANSWERS:

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
TWENTY YEARS OLD
CARMEL, INDIANA

Handwritten notes in the right margin.

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COMICS

calvin and Hobbes by WILSON

THE LATE CRETACEOUS...

A GIANTIC QUETZALCOATLUS, A TIRANOSAUR THE SIZE OF AN AIRPLANE, SHOOTS OVER THE TERRIBLE TIRANOSAURUS!

WACK! THE COMOTION ATTRACTS OTHER TIRANOSAURS, GREEDY FOR AN UNDESERVED PIECE!

PLEASE PASS ME A WING, CALVIN.

NO! YOU CAN'T HAVE ANY! IT'S MINE! ALL MINE!

DRIVEN AWAY BY THE FIERCE ROARING AND GNASHING OF THE INTRUDERS, THE TIRANOSAUR NURSES A DEEP GRUDGE. REVENGE WILL SOON BE HIS!

THE TIRANOSAUR LUNGES AND BRINGS DOWN THE FLYING PEST!

The Far Side

By GARY LARSON

"I wouldn't do that, mister... Old Zeek's liable to fire that sucker up."

"If we pull this off, we'll eat like kings."

"Well, good heavens! ... I can't believe you men... I've got some rope!"

"Go back sleep, Thug... You only dream we live as long as you do."

"At the head of the pack, I might as well be a nut as the rest of you."

"Gee, everyone, dig in... And you kids watch for shiners!"